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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

~~FOR THE YEAR~~ 1861-62. — 63

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

FOR THE YEAR 1861-62.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

I PROCEED to submit the Administration Report for the Central Provinces up to the 1st August 1862. As this Administration was constituted on the 2nd November 1861, the present is the *first* Report. The affairs of one portion of the new Provinces (namely, the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories) have indeed, from time to time, been reported upon in conjunction with those of the North-Western Provinces; and the affairs of another portion, namely, Sumbulpore and its Dependencies, in conjunction with those of Bengal. But the affairs of one main portion, namely, the Nagpore Province, have never yet been reported to the Supreme Government.

Administration formed for the Central Provinces.

2. By the Government Resolution of 2nd November 1861 the Province of Nagpore and its Dependencies, and the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, were formed into the Central Provinces. By the Government Resolution of 30th April 1862 Sumbulpore and its Dependencies were added thereto. In this Report it will be necessary to treat of these various Provinces as one whole under their joint appellation of the Central Provinces.

Their external boundaries.

3. These Provinces, then, are of great extent. They stretch from Bundlecund in the north, to the Madras Presidency in the south; from the Frontier of Bengal in the east, to independent Malwa and to the Deccan in the west. Their extreme length from north to south may be computed at 510, and their extreme breadth from east to west at 550 miles. They extend from the 18th to 24th degree of North Latitude, and from the 77th to 83rd degree of East Longitude. Their estimated area amounts to 150,000 square miles. Among the ancient Divisions of India they comprise portions of Hindostan and Malwa, and the greater part of Gondwana; but in a strict sense they do not comprise any part of the Deccan. A glance at the Map prefixed to this Report will shew how the several Frontiers are formed. It will suffice here to state that these Provinces are bounded on the north by the Independent States of Bundlecund, of which the principal are Tehree and Punnah; on the west and north-west by the British District of Chundeyree, Lullutpore (belonging to the north-west Provinces), by the Bhopaul

State, by Scindia's Dominions, by Berar, and by the Nizam's Dominions; on the south and south-east by the Nizam's Dominions and by the Madras District of Rajahmundry; on the east by the Jaypora State, under Madras jurisdiction; by those portions of Bengal known as the Tributary Mehals and the north-west Frontier Agency; and by the Rewa State.

4. In general terms, then, the Central Provinces may be described as an extensive British Territory, situated in the very heart and centre of the Indian Peninsula, dissociated, geographically and politically, from other British Provinces; and though occasionally touching upon neighbouring British Districts, yet, for the most part, surrounded on all sides by Foreign Territory. But, on the other hand, they are compact within themselves; their jurisdiction, though expansive, is not straggling; their Frontiers, though exhibiting some irregularities, run generally in regular lines, and their shape is that of a vast triangle.

Their general shape.

5. The country, thus comprised, possesses physical and external features so numerous and varied, that to describe them all within the limits of this Report would be impossible. But I shall attempt such description as may convey a general idea of the main characteristics.

6. The first striking feature in the Central Provinces is their division into nearly two halves by the Sautpoora Hills. This range runs south of the River Nerbudda from east to west. Within itself it embraces considerable tracts of table land, which have been formed into several Districts. It may be said, then, that there are three kinds of Districts, *first*, those north of or above the Sautpoora Hills; *second*, those belonging to the Hills; and *third*, those south of or below the Hills. The Districts in and above the Sautpoora Hills have the better climate, and are the more interesting. Those below the Hills have a less desirable climate, but they are the greatest, and the most capable of development.

The Sautpoora Hills.

7. The Districts north of or above the Sautpoora Hills, then, commence from where the table land of Bundlecund is supported or flanked by Hills, which, with their scarped faces, their rugged bastions, their elongated horizontal summits, appear like the fortresses of Nature. The north-west portion of the tract, which is known as the Saugor and Dumoh Territory, is an undulating or hilly country diversified by the off-shoots of the Vindya Range, and to the south resting upon the range itself. Though often either rugged or arid or overgrown with jungle, it has much scattered cultivation and contains many spots of richness and beauty. Then to the south there comes the Vindya Hills, a comparatively low and irregular range overlooking the VALLEY OF THE NERBUDDA River. This Valley commences from the western limit of Hoshungabad District (not far from Mhow and Indore) passing through the Nursingpoor District on to Jubbulpore. It is bounded on the north, then, by the Vindyas, and reaches to the Sautpooras, which form its southern boundary. At Jubbulpore it is gradually cut off by the off-shoots of the Sautpoora Hills. Though deep

Districts north of the Hills.

The Nerbudda Valley.

it is, on the whole, broad, often having a breadth of thirty miles. Its extreme length may be more than two hundred miles, watered by the Nerbudda from end to end. For the most part it is a sheet of excellent cultivation of sugar-cane, cotton, and wheat, and is one of the finest parts of the Central Provinces. In the cold season the prospect is remarkable, consisting in long plains waving with harvest, and bounded on either hand with ranges running almost parallel to each other, and stretching out in seemingly endless perspective.

8. Then from Jubbulpore running northwards towards Mirzapore, up to the Frontier of the Rewa Agency, there is a tract which is really a branch of the Nerbudda Valley, though it is not permeated by any stream of note. It is about a hundred miles in length and of varying breadth. In fertility it is hardly inferior to the Nerbudda Valley. It is now traversed by the Trunk Road from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore. And the entire tract from the Frontier of Rewa to Jubbulpore, and thence along the bank of the Nerbudda to the extremity of Hoshungabad, is to be traversed by a Railway. Here, then, is to be found one of the principal arteries of wealth and traffic within these Provinces.

The Districts in the Sautpoora Hills.

9. The Districts in the Sautpoora Range from the HILL REGION of the Central Provinces, commence from the elevated Plateau of Umurkuntuk, where the River Nerbudda has its source. The Plateau itself now belongs to the Raja of Rewa; but the cool and fertile, though wild, valleys in its neighbourhood are British. As they approach the Valley of the Nerbudda they become lower and less healthy. These several tracts are known as the Mundla District, once the seat of a mixed Gond and Rajpoot Dynasty, sparsely peopled, scantily cultivated, rich in resources, poor in development, in parts fit for European settlements, in parts fit only for the habitation of tigers.

10. Due west there comes the Seonee District, generally wild and hilly, but with some rich valleys and plateau. This is traversed from end to end by the Trunk Road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore; westward again is the Chindwara District, once the seat of the principal Gond Dynasty in these Provinces. It contains the Muthoor and the Puchmurree Hills, important places, on which rest the hopes of establishing Sanaturia for these Provinces, and on one of which it is proposed to establish an European Convalescent Depôt. Again to the west is the Baitool District, possessing one extensive table land, where the River Taptee has its source, and one fine valley which produces the best Opium in these Provinces. In this District there are situated the Khamlee Hills, where a possible, though not certain, project of a Sanatarium has been formed.

11. The Districts south of or below the Sautpoora Range constitute, in the first place, the Province of Nagpore Proper. These are separated from Berar and the Nizam's Dominions by the River Wurda, running from north to south. It is along the left bank of the river that there is situated the great COTTON FIELD of the Central Provinces. In the north, where the river debouches from the Sautpoora Hills, the cotton cultivation consists of a rich but narrow strip along the bank. This strip widens as

it proceeds southwards, till, owing to a semi-circular curve of the river, it attains a width of fifty miles at a point which may be marked by Hinguughat, the well known cotton mart. Here is the great plain of black loamy soil cultivated partly with cotton and partly with wheat and maize, but capable of being cultivated chiefly with cotton. The flat unvarying champagne of unbroken cultivation contrasts strangely with the stony, jungly, rugged and undulating tracts around it. Then it gradually becomes narrower and narrower still hugging the banks of the river, but more and more encroached upon by the brushwood and forest till it becomes lost a little below the old City of Chanda. At this point the Desert and the Garden are brought into juxta-position. On one side of the City there is the black loam and the cotton crops; on the other side there is the barren unpropitious ground covered with low forest and brushwood, and tenanted by wild beasts. This black soil tract, then, cannot be less than 100 miles in length, while its breadth is varying. Its probable area may amount to 3,985 or 4,000 square miles. And this area one day may, and will, be cultivated chiefly with cotton.

The Valley of the Wurda.

12. The next great Division is the Valley of the Wyngunga, which flows nearly parallel to the Wurda from north to south. Towards the north, where the river debouches from the Sautpoora Hills, the valley is broad, generally cultivated, and often rich. On the right bank opposite the Capital, Nagpore, the valley reaches out to a great breadth till it is separated only by some hilly country from the Valley of the Wurda. Here, then, is the great PLAIN OF NAGPORE stretching from the Capital to the River Wyngunga for forty miles of flat unbroken cultivation of wheat and maize. On the opposite side of the river the country is more broken or undulating, and but partially cultivated, chiefly by means of irrigation from tanks. These tanks are so numerous, and some of them so large, being many miles in circumference, that this tract might almost be called the LAKE REGION of Nagpore. Here a tank is not a piece of water with regular banks, crowned with rows or avenues of trees, with an artificial dyke and sluices, and with fields around it. But it is an irregular expanse of water; its banks are formed by rugged hills covered with low forests that fringe the water where the wild beasts repair to drink; its dykes, mainly shaped out of spurs from the hills, are thrown athwart the hollows, a part only being formed by masonry; its sluices often consist of chasms or fissures in the rock; its broad surface is often, as the mousoon approaches, lashed into surging and crested waves.

The Valley of the Wyngunga.

Lakes and Tanks.

13. Proceeding southward the Valley of the Wyngunga becomes narrower but continues rich, abounding in rice cultivation, and highly irrigated, until at last it joins the Wurda (there called the Peanhita) below Chandah. Its feeders have also valleys of a similar character. But the cultivation is hemmed in by low forest or rank jungle; and even in the cultivated tracts the malaria is so prejudicial, that during the autumn and early winter no European could enter there and live. As, then, the Valley of the Wurda is the Cotton Field, so the lower valley of the Wyngunga is the RICE FIELD of these Provinces.

The Rice Country.

14. Proceeding eastward the attention is arrested by the plateau of Chutteesghur. This tract is considered to be one of the finest and most promising portions of the Central Provinces.

15. After running in a comparatively straight line, west to east, from the banks of the Taptee, past the Valleys of both Warda and the Wyngunga over a distance of nearly three hundred miles, the Sautpoora Range culminates at Amurkuntuk, a celebrated spot, and already mentioned. After that the range turns abruptly and shapes its course northwards. Beneath and beyond the remarkable angle thus formed there lies the undulating table land of the PLATEAU OF CHUTTEESGHUR, now called (after the name of the principal Station) the District of *Raepore*. The northern or upper portion has its suface broken up by a variety of small hills and ranges of irregular formation. It is not well cultivated nor thickly peopled. Its principal place is the old City of Ruttunpoor. Proceeding southwards the country becomes more open and better cultivated.

The plateau of Chutteesghur.

16. From the forest-clothed hills far down to the south there rise the Mahanuddy and the Sew Rivers. These run northwards almost parallel to each other, and both intersect the plains of Chutteesghur in the neighbourhood of Raepore. The extensive tracts, then, adjacent to or situate between these rivers possess remarkable productive powers. They produce wheat and rice in abundance. The ground is on a high level, stretching out in long and gentle undulations, presenting the sight of endless cultivation without any break or interruption for many miles. The harvests have increased of late, and will increase indefinitely until Chutteesghur becomes one of the great granaries of the country.

17. Eastward beyond the Valley of the Mahanuddy, there intervene the petty states, dependencies of Sumbulpore. A stream (one of the feeders of the Mahanuddy) named the Jank, forms the boundary between the Raepore District of the Nagpore Province and these states. Here there appear various ranges of wild wooded hills generally running from north to south. In some places the hills rise to a considerable altitude, and the wilderness becomes a noble forest. These tracts are now poor and barbarous, yet possessing great capability of improvement; held by Feudal Chiefs, tributaries of the British Government. Thus the country continues for more than fifty miles till the valley of the Mahanuddy once more meets the view. That river, having as already mentioned, run its course northwards, turns round and proceeds in a south-easterly direction in its progress towards the sea. In this neighbourhood its valley is sometimes shut in by hills, and sometimes opens out into a fine expanse. It is here that Sumbulpore and the British Territory pertaining to it are situated. And, truly, in an economic point of view, the situation is a commanding one. For many miles above this point the Mahanuddy is navigable during the monsoon months only, though not during the greater part of the year. But a few miles below Sumbulpore the river becomes navigable all the year round, right down to the sea. It is to this point, then, the head of the Mahanuddy, navigation, that we hope to carry by land transit the vast

The Gurjat States.

produce of Eastern Nagpore. Thence the passage to the seaport will be sufficiently easy.

18. The Sumbulpore territory, then, consists in reality of the VALLEY OF THE MAHANUDDY and its feeder the Eebe, which traverse the whole district from one extremity to the other. The remainder of the district, though extensive in area, consists chiefly of hill and forest, with occasional valleys partially reclaimed. Even the valley of the *Eebe* is rugged and narrow. But the valley of the Mahanuddy is in most parts open, and attains to a considerable width, opposite Sumbulpore. It is but partially cultivated as yet; but its natural capabilities are supposed to be enormous. It produces cotton, sugar-cane and rice. It possesses a complete system of tank irrigation, and an industrious, though scanty, population. As already explained, the western valley of the Mahanuddy is bounded by wooded hills, some of which abut abruptly on the river itself. To the eastwards, again, there appear the hills and the forests. And about forty miles to the north of Sumbulpore there is the frontier of the wild and almost unknown hill states subordinate to the North-west Frontier Agency of the Bengal Government. In that direction the hills rise higher and higher, step by step, till they flank the salubrious table land of Chota Nagpore. Again, about 40 miles to the east and south-east of Sumbulpore, there runs the frontier of the tributary states of Orissa, and of the Cuttack district.

The Valley of the Mahanuddy.

19. The eastern confines of the Central Provinces having thus been reached, it remains only to notice the southern and south-eastern.

20. Thus the south-eastern portion of the Nagpore Province is a GREAT WILDERNESS. It stretches from the valley of the Wynegunga, and the plains of Chutteesghur, down to the Godavery on the south, and almost to the range of the Eastern Ghaut Mountains that overhang the littoral districts of Bengal and Madras. It is divided into two portions by the Indrawatty river, which, rising in the Eastern Ghauts, runs in a south-west course to join the Godavery.

21. With a few small and rare exceptions, the upper portion, north of the Indrawatty, is composed of out-lying portions of the Chanda, Bhundara, and Raepore districts, and of the Bustar state. It is entirely uncultivated and uninhabited. It is unsurveyed, and almost untrodden by man, except in one line traversed once or twice a year by the hardy Bunjarra traders with their long strings of laden bullocks. This track is the solitary mark of human occupation. The whole tract is believed to abound in hill and wood, and to be malarious, even deadly, in climate. In some places it is known to contain, or to have contained, valuable and extensive forests. In the hills to the north of it the river Mahanuddy has its source. In the south-west, nearer to the Godavery, there is the solitary mount of Soorjaghur, rising to a height of 4,000 feet, and said to be crowned with some Hindoo temples. On the whole, it is one of the wildest portions of the British dominions in the east, and is a blank in the Map of India. In area it is as

The Central Wilderness.

large as two or three districts in the settled Provinces. Yet its total revenues are under a few thousands of Rupees, and its population under a few thousand souls.

22. The lower portion, south of the Indrawatty, if not quite so desolate as the portion just described, is still very wild. Its climate, if not deadly, is still malarious and unhealthy. The Indrawatty itself does not contribute much to agriculture, or to human habitation. There are but few villages (and those wretched) along its banks, and but scanty cultivation it its valley. In some places it is fringed with forests. It has some noble cascades, and often rushes over rapids. It is neither navigated nor navigable. On the south bank is situated Jugdulpoor, in itself a village, but the Capital of Bustar, a Native State, under political control of British authority, with a large area, and a small half-civilized population. This part, also, has heretofore formed a blank in Indian Geography. But recent enquiries have thrown some light on these dark regions. The country is described as an interminable and primeval forest, with a sprinkling here and there of small villages with patches of cultivation. There are various ranges of hills occasionally clothed with forests of Saul and Teak; and at one point near the Indrawatty there is a group of hills from 3,000 to 4,000 feet high, and having a cool climate. Beyond Bustar, stretching far to the north-east, close up to Sumbulpore, there is the outlying state of Kharonde or Kalahundy, also a petty principality under the political control of British authority. This territory is somewhat similar in character to that of Bustar. But the country is more open and salubrious. Again, the eastern limits of Bustar touch upon the Jeypore State, which is under the political jurisdiction of the Madras Presidency. In the Eastern Ghauts, near to Jeypore, there rises the Selree river, which runs southwards to join the Godavery. In character it resembles the Indrawatty, though it is on a smaller scale. It is partially fringed with forest, and timber can sometimes be floated down. But it is not navigable. Its junction with the Godavery is near that Great Gorge where the Godavery bursts through the Eastern Ghauts in its course to the sea, and also near the boundary of the Rajahmundry, or Godavery District of the Madras Presidency.

The Bustar State.

The Kalahundy State.

23. There only remains the long strip of territory lying along the left bank of the Godavery, and between the southern boundary of the Bustar state and the river. There is a fringe of villages and cultivation along the river bank; but in the interior, beyond that margin, the country is the same as that already described. To the north of this strip there stands the new station of Sironcha, near the junction of the rivers Wurda, Wyngunga,* Indrawatty and Godavery. Lower down the river is Doomagoodum, the head quarters of the Godavery Navigation Department.

The Godavery District.

24. The various kinds of districts have now been described. Such briefly, then, in their external aspect, are the Central Provinces; vast in geographical area, infinitely varied in local and topographical

Physical features.

* The combined rivers Wurda and Wyngunga form the Pranheeta.

details, sometimes flat and fertile, but generally wild and rugged, abounding in hills, forests and brushwood, sparsely populated and scantily cultivated for the most part, but occasionally opening out into long and broad tracts covered with harvests and thickly inhabited; on the whole, poor and unproductive at present, but rich in various resources, and capable of indefinite development in the future.

Past History.

25. For the purposes of this report, it will suffice to touch only on those portions of the past history of this country which may have materially affected the condition of things as they appear at the present day.

Ancient Hindoo Dynasties.

26. The earliest dynasties in this part of India, of which any thing is now either recorded or remembered, are those of the Gond Rajpoots. But prior to these, and superior to them in civilization, there must have been several Hindoo dynasties which are only now known by architectural remains,—some at Jubbulpore on the banks of the Nerbudda, some in the hilly part of Chutteesghur, and some at Bustar in the heart of the wilderness.

The Gond Tribe.

27. As already stated in this chapter, the ancient Gondwana or country of the Gonds comprises most of the countries now included in the Central Provinces, both below and above the Sautpoora range. The earliest settlers in the woods and hills, and the oldest dynasties were Gond. The Gonds seem without doubt to have been one of the most powerful and important of the aboriginal races of India. Existing prior to the advent of the Hindoos, they possessed their own forms of heathenism, which often are preserved entire and intact to this day, and which have always and under all changes impressed their mark on the character of the tribe. But some Gonds, while retaining their external and distinctive characteristics, adopted the Hindoo and some few the Mahomedan religion. Thus there are seen in the present age, as respects faith and custom, three kinds of Gonds, namely the aboriginal Gonds, the Hindoo Gonds, and the few Mussulman Gonds. While in physique and morals all three seem much alike. The Hindoo conquered, of the Gonds were principally Rajpoots. These intermarried with the conquerors, and their descendants are called Rajpoots, and pride themselves on their descent. Most of the indigenous Rajpoots, so called, are really Gond Rajpoots. These mixed races, becoming acclimatised to countries that would have proved deadly to many civilized nations, spread themselves over wide domains, and in arms and policy emulated the achievements of superior tribes. Their original boundary in the south may, perhaps, have been the Godavery. If it was, they must have crossed that river, and extended far into the Deccan.

The Gond Rajpoots.

28. They formed from first to last four kingdoms within the present limits of these Provinces. The northern kingdom had its capital at Mundla, and at Gurra, (near the modern City of Jubbulpore), and dominated the greater part of the Nerbudda

Valley; while the remainder, together with the northern or Saugor District was occupied by Boondela Rajpoots, and by Hindoos of various tribes. Of the two midland Kingdoms one had its Capital at Deoghur on the southern face or slopes of the Sautpoora Range, overlooking and commanding the plains which now belong to Nagpore. Deogurh is now ruined and utterly desolate; but it was a City before Nagpore was even a village. The other midland Kingdom has its Capital at Kherla, a Hill commanding the rich valley of Baitool in the heart of the Sautpoora Hills. To this also belonged the celebrated forts of Gawilghur and Nurnalla, both in the same range. The southern kingdom had its Capital at Chanda on the Wurda, and comprised a vast but wild territory; it stretched far up to the north-east, and again commanding the Godavery stretched far down to the south. These four Dynasties existed at least some time before the formation of the Mogul Empire. They were brave and independent, but they could never have been rich or powerful. Still, each of them must have possessed an annual revenue of some lakhs of Rupees. They were quite inferior in art and civilization to the Hindoo and Mahomedan Dynasties known in other parts of India; but still they each left architectural remains and monuments of great interest at *Mundla*, at *Deoghur*, at *Kherla*, and at *Chanda*. These ruins surrounded by, or adjacent to, the waste or the rocks, or the forest, fill the modern enquirer with surprise, and attest the former energies of half-civilized races, contending with the wildness of nature. As the Mahomedan rule absorbed the different parts of Central India, it attacked these Gond Kingdoms in turn. The northern Kingdom, however, in some struggles, well known to local tradition, maintained something of its independence, though it may have lost many of its richer Provinces. The southern Kingdom also does not appear to have been entirely subdued, though it was rendered tributary; but its branches across the Godavery were carried away, and added to the Mahomedan Kingdoms in the Deccan. That dominion indeed spread over both banks of the Godavery, and up to a recent period the strip of territory on the left or Nagpore side of the river belonged to the Nizam. The midland Kingdom was, at all events, rendered tributary, and its princes were by force, or influence, converted to Islam.

Their four Kingdoms.

Their Remains.

29. Besides these four Kingdoms, there was a Gond Rajpoot Dynasty at Wurungal in the Deccan. When that place fell to the Mahomedans, the Raja fled northwards across the Godavery, and established himself in wild independence among the inaccessible forests.

Dynasty of Wurungal in the Deccan.

30. The Mahomedan princes and generals who were settled in Malwa (somewhat beyond the present north-western frontier of the Central Provinces) did sooner or later occupy the finest parts of the Nerbudda Valley. And the city of Hoshungabad was named after the well known Hoshung Khan. The Mahratta Province of Nagpore, too, having been brought under Mahomedan rule, was made a dependency of the Vice-Royalty of the Deccan. As the Mahomedan Empire became broken up, and a general scramble for empire commenced, and as the tide of Mahratta invasion ebbed and flowed, revolutions swept like so many

Mahomedan Rulers.

waves one after the other. The Nerbudda districts suffered, in common with Malwa, a long series of misfortunes. Thus the landholding portion of the Hindoo population were trodden out or banished, and the Gonds were driven to the hills and woods. And at the last, these much vexed Provinces suffered partially from Pindarry incursions; the robber tribe of Pindarries having fixed their head quarters in the wild and strong country on the banks of the Nerbudda below Hoshungabad. The depopulation and devastation which occurred in those successive periods of evil greatly modified the circumstances and character of the people, and the effects are clearly traceable to this day. Ultimately, however, the districts of Saugor and Dumoh, and part of the Hoshungabad District, became incorporated in the dominion of the Mahratta House of Scindia, while the rest of the country now included in the Central Provinces formed the kingdom established by the Mahratta House of Bhonsla.

Misfortune of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

31. The Bhonslas did, indeed, accumulate a great extent of territory. They subdued successively each of the four Gond Kingdoms already mentioned.

The great Bhonsla Kingdom.

There are no traces now left of the Royal Gond families of Mundla and Kherla. But the descendants of the Mahomedan Gond Princes of Deoghur, and of the Hindoo Gond Princes of Chanda, still survive as state pensioners. The Bhonslas also reduced the Gond Rajpoot Chief who, driven out from the Deccan by the Mahomedans, had established himself in the wilds of Bastar near the Godavery, and also over the Gond and Gond Rajpoot Chieftains, who dwell in the districts of the Mahanuddy, now known as Sumbulpore and its dependencies. Thence they extended their possessions over the Cuttack Province right down to the Sea. It is also to be remembered that the Bhonslas owned as one of their first possessions the Province of Berar, and bore the title of Rajahs of Berar. Hence Nagpore has sometimes been erroneously compared with Berar. After the first Mahratta war in 1803, Berar was shorn off from the Nagpore Kingdom, and transferred to the Nizam of the Deccan, under whose sovereignty it has since remained. At the same time the Province of Cuttack was ceded to the British. The power of the Bhonslas culminated under the first and greatest of the Rughojees. He ruled from the Bay of Bengal in the east to the Adjunta Hills overlooking Kandeish in the west, from the Nerbudda in the north to the Godavery in the south, over one of the greatest kingdoms ever founded by a Mahratta prince. His revenues amounted to about a million sterling per annum. He died in 1755. It was in the reign of the second Rughojee (1803) that Cuttack and Berar were lost to the Bhonslas, and the kingdom reduced by more than one-third. From that time also a British Resident was established at Nagpore. Rughojee the second died in 1816, and Appa Sahib was placed on the throne. It was his treachery and defection in 1817 that brought on those events that ended so well for the British cause in the defence of the Residency under Sir R. Jenkins, and the battle of Seetabuldee. One result of these affairs was the cession to the British of the districts on the Nerbudda

Its extent.

The first and second Rughojee.

and of the tributary states on the Mahanuddy. From that time also the two small Hills of Seetabuldee (at Nagpore itself) and a few square miles of ground for a cantonment were also ceded to the British. These several cessions were ratified by the treaties of 1817 and 1826; and the several districts under the designations then recognized are all named in the Schedules annexed to the last named treaty. At the same period after the conclusion of the second Mahratta war, the Saugor and Dumoh districts were ceded to the British Government by Dowlut Rao Scindia in 1817 and 1818, and the territories under their then recognized designations are to be found in the Schedules attached to the treaty of 1818. Saugor is also included in the cessions made by the Peishwa in the treaty of 1817. Thus were acquired by the British Government the districts so long known as "The Saugor and Nerbudda Territory."

Cessions of Territory to the British Government and to the Nizam.

32. The remnant of the Bhonsla dominions now consisted of the Province of Nagpore itself. After the final deposition of Appa Sahib in 1818, (who, after continued acts of treachery, fled to Hindostan) Rughojee the third, then a minor, was placed on the throne by British authority. During the long minority and regency which ensued the Government was virtually conducted by the Resident Sir R. Jenkins. Some European Officers were appointed to superintend the several districts; and a regular staff of Native officials was appointed. This administration, if not quite equal to that of regular British Provinces, was consonant to the usages and circumstances of the country, and superior to any thing known previously. It is still remembered with favor by the people. It lasted till 1830, when the Government was assumed by the Rajah himself. Rughojee died in 1853, without heirs begotten or adopted, and the kingdom lapsed to the British Government as paramount in 1854.

Ultimate limits of the Nagpore Kingdom.

It lapses to the British Government.

33. In 1860 several additions accrued on the several Frontiers. Certain portions of the Saugor and Hoshungabad districts, previously assigned to British management (together with other districts not connected with these Provinces) were ceded in perpetuity, in virtue of certain territorial arrangements concluded with Maharajah Scindia. A portion of the Shahghur Principality, confiscated by reason of the rebellion of its Rajah in 1857, was included in the Saugor district. An important strip of territory extending along the left bank of the Godavery for 140 miles was ceded to the British Government in virtue of the recent territorial arrangements made with His Highness the Nizam of the Deccan in 1860.

Minor Cessions.

34. This sketch may be concluded with a summary of the dates on which the various territories now incorporated in the Central Provinces were acquired by the British Government:—

Dates of acquisition of Territory.

1817	Nerbudda Districts	.. From the Bhonsla Mahratta.
„	Seetabuldee Hill (Nagpore)	.. From „ „
1818	Saugor Districts	.. From Scindia Mahratta.
1826	Sumbulpore and its Dependencies	.. From Bhonsla.
1854	Nagpore Province	.. From „
1860	Part of Shahgur (Saugor)	.. From Bundlecund.
„	Hindia Hordee (Hoshungabad	.. From Scindia Mahratta.
„	Godavery Talooks	.. From Nizam of the Deccan.

35. It will be observed that almost the whole of these Provinces have been under Mahratta rule. In Nagpore Proper, which is between the Wurda and Wyngunga rivers, the Mahrattas have thoroughly left their impress upon the face and features of the country. There the manners and customs, the language, the ideas and associations, are all Mahratta, both among high and low, both in town and country, and village. With certain modifications, this part of the country much resembles Berar; and the Mahratta country of the Bombay Presidency. But in the rest of these dominions the Mahrattas remained distinct as a governing class; and, although everywhere indications of Mahratta influence are visible, yet with the mass of the people neither the language nor the associations are Mahratta. In the eastern part of Nagpore and Sumbulpore the Hindee language prevails with some admixture of the Bengalee and Oorya languages, inasmuch as the frontier now reaches to within 150 miles of Cuttack District, and within 120 from the district of Midnapore near Calcutta. To the south, in the districts bordering on the Godavery, the Teloogoo language is used. To the north in and above the Sautpoora Range the Hindee and Oordoo languages prevail; and in the extreme north above Saugor there is much affinity with Bundlecund and Hindostan. Throughout all the hill regions and in the more remote districts the Gondee dialect prevails, and there are many wild tracts where this dialect alone would be understood. In general terms, however, the Hindostanee is the lingua franca now understood with few exceptions, even in the villages throughout these Provinces.

Mahratta Rule and Associations.

Different languages used in the Central Provinces.

36. Of the population, generally, it is difficult, if not impossible, to convey any comprehensive idea in a few words. There are not here, as in some parts of India, particular classes in power, and particular classes in subjection, or particular tribes in substantial occupation of large tracts of country. The people here, indeed, present every variety of tribe and caste mixed up together. There are few tracts of country, even few villages, where any one tribe can be said to predominate. It must suffice to mention some of the principal tribes.

Various Tribes and Castes of the Population.

37. The Gonds have been already mentioned. They are principally found in the hill districts of the Sautpoora Range, and in the wild regions to the east and south; but a few of them are scattered about in the plains of Nagpore. The Mahomedans generally are not numerous, nor have they any large stake in the country. They have principally been attracted by service or adventure. There are but few Pathans from Northern India, some Mogals, a sprinkling of Deccanees, and some from Arcot in Madras. There used to be swarms of Arabs and Rohillas in the capital at Nagpore in the service of the second Rughojee, just as there are now in the Deccan. These men were mischievous and turbulent; they were happily driven out from Nagpore long ago; and there is apparently not one of them left. There are, fortunately, but few of the fanatical and priestly class of Mahomedans. Of Brahmins from Hindostan there are few; but there is of course a sprinkling of Mahratta Brahmins (Maharashtree) who are known to be a class of eminent ability and influence; the proportion of these, however, is small for the number of Mahrattas generally, except in the city of Nagpore, where they are numerous. But Brahmins of the poorer class are largely sprinkled all over the country as writers and petty traders; much of this kind of business being in their hands. The Rajpoots of more or less pure descent are numerous, especially to the east, and hold much land; some of them being large feudal landlords. As already explained, this race is much mixed with that of the Gonds, and most of them would not be acknowledged by the real Rajpoot of Northern India. In the Saugor and Damoh Districts, there are some of that formidable and untractable Boondela tribe of Rajpoots that possess Bundlecund.

The Gonds.

The Mahomedans.

Brahmins.

Rajpoots.

38. Of the educated and mercantile class there are many Kayeths from Hindostan, introduced a few before and many after British Rule into the public offices and departments. The Purbhos from the Bombay Concan, and the Parsees are very few. That very important class of Marwaree merchants and bankers (whose native country is in Jodhpore) are well represented in the principal towns; some of them are men of real ability and enterprise. Some of the Madras mercantile class have found their way here in connexion with the Troops and the public departments.

Mercantile Classes.

39. Of the great agricultural section of the community nearly all tribes and castes are represented. The best of them are as yet, however, altogether inferior in skill, strength and industry to the great husbandman classes of Hindostan and the Punjab. But one of the chief are the Koonbees, who appear to be identical with the great Koonbee tribe in the Mahratta country of Bombay, from which tribe the dominant Mahratta race is sprung. The Nagpore Koonbees are chiefly found in the valleys of the Wurda and the Wyngunga. The Koormees and Kachees, Pomvars and Bagrees, similar tribes but of Hindostanee origin, are found chiefly in the northern and

Agricultural tribes.

The Koonbees.

central districts; they are skilful, careful and excellent husbandmen. The Lodhees possess and cultivate much of the land in most parts of these Provinces; they are found alike in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories and in Nagpore; they are reputed to be fair husbandmen, but they are not of so quiet and contented a disposition as the other agricultural classes. The Chumars (leather makers or tanners), a low caste, abound in Chutteesghur, and indeed cultivate the greater part of that rich and fertile tract. Their character is as yet inferior; but from their possession of such fine land, they have a great chance and opportunity of progress. The ground is so productive that it does not call forth their energies at present. In the south near the Godavery the cultivators often are Telingees (from the Madras Telingâna) speaking the Teloogoo language.

The Lodhees.

40. The villages thinly dotted over the great wilderness in the centre of the Nagpore Province are chiefly held by that section of the Gonds named Mârees, a semi-barbarous race, extremely shy and timid, quite wild men of the woods, and seldom seen by an European. Of that remarkable class of Deccanee laborers, the Wuddeas, there are a few employed on the Railway works; they possess superior physical energy, and are the "navvies" of these Provinces.

Tribes dwelling in the wilderness.

41. To this cursory notice there should be added a mention of the Brinjarees, or Bunjairahs, or Lubanees. These men are to Central India what the Lohanee and Puracha traders are to the north of India. As traders and carriers these Bunjairahs ramify all over the country, and form a free-masonry among themselves. They travel from Bombay to Mirzapore, from Bundlecund to Masulipatam. At this moment the land carriage for cotton is entirely in their hands. In the north of India the caravans have strings of camels. But these Bunjairahs, instead of camels, have vast herds of bullocks. In the north of India the armed traders have to face the snows, and the rocky passes, and the fierce mountaineers. But these Bunjairahs have to meet different dangers, in the damp and dark forest, the putrefying vegetation, the malarious exhalation, the pestilential swamp. In the height of the rainy season, however, they have a recess, and they permit their bullocks to graze in the boundless pasturage. The character of these men is in some respects fair; but they are often daring and turbulent, and sometimes suspected of participation in robberies.

The Bunjairah Traders and Carriers.

42. The general disposition of the people is quiet, peaceable, and patient. Those classes which are wild or barbarous are not fierce nor aggressive. Fanaticism in any shape is rare. To the north of the Nerbudda the people are more spirited and sensitive. But they are not turbulent, and are of a milder character than the population of the neighbouring territory of Bundlecund. The upper class of the population is fairly interspersed everywhere; but its standard of education and civilization is not high. The middle class is numerous, and all things considered, tolerably educated and intelligent. The lower class and the mass of the population must rank low, even in an Indian scale, in respect to skill, industry

General character of the people.

and intelligence; and education among them is even more rare than elsewhere in India.

43. As might be expected in such a pastoral country, there are vasts herd of bullocks, cows and buffaloes. But all the borine herds are of an ordinary description, rather below than above the general Indian average, expect perhaps on the banks of the lower Wurda, and the Godavery, and in a few exceptional places. In few parts is there really superior indigenous bread of cattle. The best draught cattle come either from the southern Presidency or from the Deccan. There is no breed of horses or ponies worthy of the name; the Deccan chiefly supplying these animals for the local demand. Camels are not found here, and those that are imported do not thrive in this comparatively humid climate. Elephants thrive here, and can be caught in the hills to the eastward. Wild animals of many species are abundant. The tigers, cheetahs and panthers infest all the districts of these Provinces, and are most destructive to human life. The wild boars are plentiful, and prove very mischievous in eating up the crops. The bison and the wild buffaloe is to be met with in many of the forests.

The various breeds of Cattle.

Wild Animals.

44. Of the agricultural products the most valuable and characteristic is *cotton*, which grows already to a great extent in the valley of the Wurda and in Chutteesghur, and might be indefinitely increased. The next best cotton is raised in the valley of the Nerbudda, some is also grown in the valley of the Mahanuddy. The best rice is very largely produced in the lower valley of the Wyngunga and in parts of Chutteesghur. Wheat is produced best in the valley of the Nerbudda, in the champaign country between Nagpore and the Wyngunga, and in parts of Chutteesghur. Oilseeds are largely cultivated in Chutteesghur and the valley of the Mahanuddy. Opium of good quality is largely produced in the Baitool district, and its culture may be greatly extended. The best sugar-cane in these Provinces is to be met with in Jubbulpore districts, but with this and a few other exceptions, the sugar-cane in these Provinces is of an inferior description. In fact, the culture of sugar in these Provinces is in its infancy. It may yet be increased and improved indefinitely. Safflower of good quality is grown in Chutteesghur. Indigo to some extent is produced in Sumbulpore. Indian corn and millet (jowary) are found in most parts of these Provinces. Of fibrous substances, flax and hemp, there is but little as yet produced. Tea and coffee have not yet been introduced, though certainly the Sautpoora Hills would appear to offer facilities for such introduction. The same remark applies to silk. Among the natural productions Lac-dye must be counted. The substance from which the dye is extracted is the work of insects, which settle in innumerable myriads upon particular trees, or shrubs, or grasses in the forests and woods to the eastward, that is in the districts of Mundla, Chutteesghur and Sumbulpore.

Agricultural Products.

Cotton.

Cereals.

Oilseed.

Opium.

Sugar-cane.

Indian corn and millet.

Lac-dye.

The Timber Forests.

45. The forests and jungles, as will have been already apparent, are boundless in these Provinces. The resources in valuable or serviceable timber, if not so great as might have been expected, are yet very considerable. The Sautpoora Hills have extensive forests of saul of first-rate quality (the value of saul being notorious), also saj and bije-saul, both trees furnishing very useful timber. To the south there are extensive teak forests, some of which are comparatively near to the Godavery. The open and cleared country is, on the whole, not destitute of ornamental trees, of those the finest are the tamarind and the mangoe, which are seen everywhere. The mangoe groves, small and great, are indeed one of the most noticeable features of the country. The avenues of trees on the Mirzapore and Jubbulpore roads are probably some of the longest to be seen any where. The superior date, palm and the cocoanut do not abound, while the inferior dwarf palm is a weed growing in quantities. The mulberry is hardly to be found. The banyan and the peepul are commonly to be met with.

Character of the soil.

46. The soil is generally rich and strong in the valleys and in the champaign country. In this cardinal advantage these Provinces will be surpassed by few. So far as agriculture, arboriculture, and horticulture have advanced as yet, there seems every reason to hope that the soil will be made to teem with all the known products of India. Though the autumn and winter rains do sometimes fail, yet the regular monsoon is always copious; and for many months the whole surface of the country is covered with verdure as with a carpet.

Coal and Iron.

47. Of coal there are some seams. Of iron there are great quantities; how great none can possibly say at present. In the Nerbudda Valley, a short distance to the west of Nursingpore, there are coal-mines on one side of the river, and iron mines on the other. The rail is here to run parallel with the river; and the mines of both kinds will be within fifty miles of the line. The mines are in the hands of an European Company. There are some coal seams in the Chindwarra district, but their real value is as yet a matter of doubt. Iron mines are worked in the Jubbulpore district; and in the hills to the north-east iron is known to exist in large quantities, and some at least of it will come into use eventually. In the centre of the Nagpore Province, too, there are many spots abounding in iron: whether the situation of the mines will offer sufficient facilities is a question requiring experience to solve. But the iron hill of Khundeshwar is close to the bank of the Wyngunga. If that river should be passable (which is doubtful) in the flood season, to the junction with the Godavery, then means of exportation might be ultimately provided.

Stones and Rocks.

48. The stone is chiefly of two kinds, sand-stone and basalt. In some places the sand-stone is coarse and suited only for ordinary masonry, in others it is fine and well adapted for carved work, and in others again thin-bedded and good for pavement. The basalt, though abundant in

many parts of the country, from the difficulty of dressing and cementing it, is not in such great request. Lime is found not only in the usual form of kunkur, but also in strata of argillaceous lime-stone. The marble rocks of the Nerbudda are celebrated, but the stone is not of very firm consistency, and is not commercially useful. Similar rocks are found in various localities between Seonee and Nagpore, sometimes pink and sometimes spotted with red or yellow; but there also little or no use is made of the marble. The bricks and tiles manufactured in the Central Provinces are of an inferior description, but as yet little search has been made for suitable clay.

Arts and Manufactures.

49. The country is almost destitute of arts and manufactures, and there are no fabrics worthy of mention. The only factory of consequence is the Lac Factory at Jubbulpore, the property of an European gentleman. There are two screw presses for cotton and other goods—one at Hingun Ghat, the other at Chanda.

Architectural Remains.

50. Architectural remains are scattered over the country, but they are Hindoo. There are no Mahomedan remains of importance. The remains left by the Gond Dynasties have been mentioned, as also the scattered Hindoo ruins of an anterior date, in several places. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territory the Mahrattas left few external traces of their rule. But in and about Nagpore the Bhonslas constructed several noble tanks and reservoirs with masonry pipes carried under ground for miles to supply water to the city and its environs. These works do, indeed, redound to their lasting honour. They also built several fine palaces and gardens. The style of architecture was purely Mahratta, distinguished by the flat roof, the far projecting eaves, the lofty wooden pillars, the walls of black stone; the general effect being massive and sombre. But, generally, the houses of the people are mean and unsightly, bricks and tiles being little used; and the actual material consisting of wood, thatch and mat. That such should be the case in a country so abounding in common wood and grass is not surprising. But as civilization advances, it is to be hoped that the houses will be better built.

Towns and Cities.

Nagpore.

Saugor and Jubbulpore.

51. The towns and cities in these Provinces cannot hold a high rank. There really is not one first class city in the country. Nagpore itself is, in its interior, probably one of the most ill-kept and unsightly cities in India. Saugor is a clean and good town, with a beautiful lake and environs; but its position gives it neither wealth nor trade. Jubbulpore is also well kept and is increasing with great rapidity; as yet, however, it is merely a rising place and no more. The extraordinary advantages of its position, however, seem to render its future destiny great and certain.

Chanda and Mundla.

Chanda and Mundla are truly strange cities with vast circumvallation and ruined forts; but in their interior containing little more than huts and jungle. Chanda is in a neighbourhood which is sure to be one day a centre of wealth, whether the current of trade

will bring greatness to that particular spot remains to be seen. In most of the Districts, such as Nursingpore, Baitool, Bhundarra and Raspore, the Head Quarters are large villages and nothing more. The large cotton marts, such as Hingun Ghat, Wurdu, Deolee, and others, places where great wealth must accumulate, are, in respect of streets, bazars, and houses, so backward, that few who had not seen them would credit the account of their condition. The apathy of the people in these respects is unfortunate. Accidental fires in such combustible dwellings are of constant occurrence, and so sure as the dry season comes round half these places are laid in ashes.

Raspore and minor places.

52. The trade of these Provinces has five great currents flowing, one to the north, one to the west, one to the south-west, one to the south-east, one to the south. The northern runs to Mirzapore, on the Ganges, and ultimately to Calcutta; its course is well open. The west is by the Valley of the Nerbudda, and the south-west proceeds direct to Bombay. Both these will be occupied hereafter by the Rail, and will then be united in Kandesh, wherein their united streams will flow to Bombay. The south-east is by the Valley of the Mahanuddy; the south by the Valley of the Godavery. These latter are at present but little developed; they will depend hereafter on the navigation of these two great rivers, and will tend to Cuttack, and more particularly to Coconada. It is Coconada which may be destined to become the Port of the Central Provinces.

Trade.

Commercial Routes.

53. The exports generally consist of raw produce; cotton, oilseeds, cereals, safflower, sugar, opium, lac, dyes, resin, wax, timber, iron. The imports consist of all kinds of manufactures and fabrics, piece-goods, cutlery, hardware, brass pots, wrought-iron, salt, cocoanuts.

Exports and Imports.

54. Such, then, so far as I yet understand them, are the Central Provinces. Upon a survey of them the characteristics which most strike the mind are their variety, their present backwardness, their vast resources, their means of future development, and their extreme isolation from all other parts of British India *penitus toto divisos orbe*.

55. By the Resolution of the 2nd November 1861 these Provinces were ordered to be administered under what is known as the Non-Regulation system, the same as that which has obtained in the Punjab and Oude. Under the Supreme Government of India the administration is conducted by a Chief Commissioner with the usual Secretariat staff; subordinate to him there is a Judicial Commissioner, or Minister of Justice and Chief Judge in all branches; four Commissioners, each being Judge of Appeal and Sessions, and Superintendent General of a Circle of Districts; and 17 Deputy Commissioners, each being Judge in Civil Causes, Magistrate and Collector of a Zillah or District. The regular subordinate Judicial staff consists of 15 Assistant Commissioners and 18 Extra Assistant Commissioners. Of the country thus to be administered the area is estimated at 1,50,000

General form of Administration.

square miles; the population at perhaps nine millions; and the annual revenues at somewhat less than one hundred lakhs, or one million sterling.

Civil Divisions and Districts.

56. The following is the distribution of Commissionerships or Divisions, and of Deputy Commissionerships or Districts :—

Saugor Division	...	Saugor District.
		Dumoh „
		Hoshungabad „
		Baitool „
Jubbulpore Division	...	Jubbulpore District.
		Mundla „
		Seonee „
		Chindwarra „
		Nursingpore „
Nagpore Division	...	Nagpore „
		Nachengaon (Wurda) „
		Bhundarra „
		Chanda „
Chutteesghur Division	...	Raepore „
		Belaspore „
		Sumbulpore and the Gurjat Districts.
* Godavery Talooks	...	Sironcha District and Bustar Dependency.

57. After this preface, which, though long, seems necessary from the novelty of the subject, I shall touch on each branch of the administration in the prescribed order.

CHAPTER II.—JUDICIAL.

Section I.—Civil Justice.

58. The Reports of the Administration of Civil Justice in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories have heretofore been incorporated in those of the North-Western Provinces. For the Nagpore Province, previously to the present year, no Annual Report was ever drawn up. For the past year, 1861, the Report for all the Provinces have been incorporated into one by the Judicial Commissioner. But the comparative statistics are very defective, and render the preparation of an accurate and comprehensive summary almost impossible. The deficiencies are even greater in the Returns of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories than in those of Nagpore.

Defective Returns.

59. For the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories Civil Justice was administered by a Judge, and a Native Judicial staff, framed after the model of the North-Western Provinces, and consisting of Principal Sudder Ameens, Sudder Ameens, and Moonsiffs; and

* This is administered by a Deputy Commissioner directly under the Chief Commissioner.

under a Procedure Code, prepared by Mr. A. A. Roberts when he held the office of Judge. In the Nagpore Province the Punjab Civil Code was adopted from the first, and justice was administered, not by a separate Judicial staff, but by the District Officers and their Assistants, and in the interior of Districts by the Tuhseeldars, or local Revenue Officers in charge of Sub-Divisions of Districts. In Sumbulpore Civil Justice was administered by a Native Judicial Officer distinct from the Deputy Commissioner.

Previous system.

60. Up to the present time the rules previously existing in each section of these Provinces have been acted upon. But in order to place everything on a solid and uniform basis, it has been proposed that the Civil Procedure Act No. X of 1859 should be introduced throughout these Provinces. As regards principles of Law, the Punjab Code is prescribed as a manual for general guidance.

61. Since the formation of the Central Provinces the Punjab scale of establishments has been declared applicable to the whole. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and Sumbulpore, this necessitated a general revision of establishments; but not for the Nagpore Province. In the former this revision is now complete; the Principal Sudder Ameens, Sudder Ameens, and Moonsiffs have been all abolished, or rather many of them have been incorporated in the general District establishments, and re-appear under the names of Tuhseeldars and Extra Assistants. The financial result will be adverted to in another chapter. But in a judical point of view the result has been to largely increase the number of Courts, especially in the interior of Districts. Under the former system some Districts might have 2 or 3 Judges in the interior, others only one. Under the new system there will not be less than 2, 3, or 4 Tuhseeldars in the interior of every District. Formerly there were 19 officers of all grades empowered to decide causes, great and small, in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories; there are now 50 such officers. And as the increase will chiefly be in distant portions of the Territories, the convenience to the people will be considerable. A similar arrangement has been carried out in Sumbulpore, where, in place of one officer with Judicial powers, there will in future be four.

New Judicial Establishments.

Increase in the number of Judges.

62. The Tuhseeldars, then, are Judges in the interior; the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants at the Head Quarters of Districts. These are all the Courts with original jurisdiction. Above them there are the several Divisional Commissioners, who are Appellate Courts. And over all there is the Judicial Commissioner as Court of Final Appeal.

63. In addition to this, the regular machinery, Small Cause Courts have been established in the Cities of Nagpore and Jubbulpore from 1st July 1862, under the provisions of Act XLII of 1860. In the other Stations, wherever there are more than two Judicial Officers besides the Deputy Commissioner, it may, hereafter, be feasible that one of them shall be entirely devoted to Civil Judicial business and exercise the functions of a Judge of Small

Courts of Small Causes.

Causes under the Act. It is hoped that cheap and speedy justice, in petty cases without appeal, may be thus secured to the principal places in these Provinces.

Civil Judges in Military Cantonments.

64. In the large Bazaars of the Kamptee Military Cantonment, which in itself constitutes a large city, and in the Cantonments of Jubbulpore and Saugor, original jurisdiction in cases below Rupees 200 each, is exercised by the Cantonment Joint Magistrate.

65. The aggregate number of Officers, European and Native, empowered to decide Civil causes within these Provinces amounts to 96.

Comparative tenacity of litigation.

66. The total number of cases before the Courts within the year amounted to 18,601, of which 17,549 were disposed of, 856 remaining undisposed of at the close of the year. In the Nagpore Province out of 10,396 cases in all no less than 5,405 were disposed of by the Tuhseeldars. In Districts where the distances are so great this circumstance is satisfactory. The number of suits on a supposed population of 9 millions will be in the proportion of 1 to 514, and even this amount is decreasing. This does not shew a large amount of litigation. Indeed, except in the city and neighbourhood of Nagpore itself, litigation is comparatively light. There is not much even at Jubbulpore and Saugor. In the Nachenguon (Wurdu) District, containing the large cotton marts, there are less than four hundred suits a year, which is a very low number. The main reason for this paucity of litigation is said to be the prevailing character of the landed tenures. The tenantry borrow from the farmers or landlords, and if there are disputes, such are not brought into Court. Whereas in Provinces where the agricultural peasantry are independent, the disputes between them and the village bankers constitute the most fertile source of litigation. Again the trade is of a wholesale rather than a retail character; and this circumstance, again, tends to obviate disputes. So far, then, as such causes go, the paucity of litigation is rather a satisfactory social feature than otherwise. But if it be in any way attributable to delays or expenses of the Courts, then a moderate increase of litigation would be a good sign. The total value of the property thus litigated within the year was estimated at Rupees 11,93,332 or 12 lakhs.

Petty character of the litigation.

67. The nature of the respective classes of suits has never been exhibited in a classified form. This classification, which presents many points of interest, will be arranged for the current year. In general terms it may be stated that the greater part of the litigation relates to petty debt. So far as can be ascertained, the average value of a suit amounts to about 68 Rupees.

Status of limitation.

68. The Rules sanctioned in the Punjab regarding the several periods of limitation (the lapse of which after the cause of action arising may bar the hearing) for various classes of cases have not yet been observed. Under existing orders of the Supreme Government they will take effect throughout these Provinces from the 1st January 1863. These discriminating Rules, whereby, for some cases of a difficult nature, a longer period is allowed; while for cases which, from their nature, ought speedily to be brought to an issue, a shorter period is

permitted, will prove beneficial. The differential principle, too, has been admitted by an Act of the Legislature passed for the Regulation Provinces.

69. In the Nagpore Province the average duration of a suit has been for 41 days, in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories for 25 days. In the Nagpore Province the results do not indicate promptitude or despatch. In many Districts of the Nagpore Province the duration has greatly exceeded this average. And it is but too notorious in Nagpore itself that many cases, for some special cause or other, have remained pending for months, and even years. This will, however, be remedied in future by constant attention to that useful form of Return which shows, for every month, the date of the institution of the oldest case pending in every Court. It is known also that delays in particular cases do frequently occur from the Cause Lists and Files not being regularly kept, and cases not being heard according thereto in due order of precedence. The scrutiny of all the Cause Lists in future has been ordered.

Proportion of costs to value of suits.

70. The percentage of costs on the vaule of suits has averaged seven per cent. in the Nagpore Province. But the precentage cannot be ascertained for the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. Under existing circumstances these averages do not supply a perfect test. Heretofore it has been the practice to charge the fee of summonses (for witnesses and parties) in every suit according to the distance which the Officer serving the summons might have to go in quest of the parties. If in a small suit the distance happened to be considerable, the summons process would be expensive. If in a large suit the distance happened to be small, the process would be cheap. Now as these processes constitute the main item in the costs, it is quite possible that the costs might be dear in some cases and cheap in others, while yet the general average struck upon the whole might appear moderate. But now the system (for some time prevailing in the Punjab) has been introduced, whereby at the outset the party compounds for the costs in one amount, calculated at a percentage upon the value of the suit. This fluctuating scale ensures the exact apportionment of costs to the various kinds of suits classified according to value, and exactly adjusts the incidence of the necessary expenditure.

Improved mode of serving processes.

Execution of Decrees.

71. The executions of decrees have been numerous. There were 14,647 cases within the year, of which 13,276 were disposed of, leaving 1,371 pending at the close of the year.

72. Of 13,276 cases disposed of, 2,175 were appealed. The frequency of appeals has been much complained of. If used in moderation, the right of appeal is one of the safeguards of Justice. If used in excess, it degenerates into an engine of litigation, harassing to the honest suitors, gratifying only to the quarrelsome and vindictive; and fostering a disputatious spirit among the people generally. If, too, as has often been the case in

Nagpore, the execution of the decree be stayed, pending the order on the appeal, the system must greatly clog the dispensing of justice. The gradual extension of Small Cause Courts will supply some remedy. Also the Punjab Rules, which are now applicable to these Provinces, and which bar a regular appeal when two lower Courts concur in a decision, has been proposed to be carried out in these Provinces. By these means, it is hoped, that the exercise of the right of appeal will be fenced within proper bound.

Appeals.

73. The delay in the disposal of appeals from the decisions of their subordinates by the District Officers has been excessive in the Nagpore Province. In only one District has there been proper despatch. In some Districts appeals have lain over for months habitually, and even for much longer periods occasionally. If, as has been often the case, the execution of decree be deferred till the appeal be disposed of the original decision becomes a mockery.

Delay in their disposal.

74. In the District of Nagpore itself the number of appeals having out-grown the means for their disposal, an additional Appellate Officer was appointed for one year, Lieutenant-Colonel Balmain, who thus disposed of 310 cases in a satisfactory manner.

Additional Appellate Officer.

75. It does not appear that arbitration, or the aid of Assessors, has been extensively resorted to by the Courts in any part of these Provinces. The Judge should not, indeed, delegate his functions to Assessors; nor should he blindly accept their award. But in these Provinces, as in many other parts of India, the summoning of Assessors, if judiciously arranged, will be useful to the Courts and popular with the suitors. In Central India especially it is well known that the Punchayet or Jury system in Civil causes was adhered to with more than ordinary reverence in former times. The attention of all the Courts has now been called to this subject.

Arbitrators and Assessors.

76. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories regular Native Pleaders and Attorneys (Vakeels and Mookhtears) have been allowed. In the Nagpore Province they have been permitted, though not distinctly recognized. Without absolutely prohibiting, it is proposed to discourage the employment of these people, and by degrees to accustom the suitors to dispense with aid of this description. However valuable a bar and a profession may be in European communities, I confess it seems to me that such an institution is productive of more evil than good in Native communities. It is true that often a man when resorting to law, even in simple cases, profits by being well advised. But from a general point of view it is certain that, if a profession of Native Lawyers is created, abuses arise which eat into the very heart of public morality. The inhabitants of comparatively remote and wild Districts thus become rapidly instructed in arts and

Native Pleaders and Agents.

devices which are morally most deleterious, and which go far to counterbalance the material benefits of British Rule. Thus, too, the people would lose that simplicity and truthfulness which generally accompany ignorance and poverty before they gained those sterling qualities which follow upon enlightenment and civilization. It might indeed be illiberal to proscribe Native Lawyers as a class; but on the other hand, there is no necessity to organize them as a body, to admit them to examination, to accord official countenance to them as a trained profession. This remark, of course, only applies to the Non-Regulation Provinces. But the discouragement of Native Pleaders as a profession will not prevent the humbler suitors from pleading their own causes through the agency of relations and friends; nor the richer suitors from pleading through their own agents or servants.

To be discouraged as a Profession.

77. The system of the evidence being recorded by the Judge with his own hand is being introduced. Already all decisions are so recorded. Here, as elsewhere, this method is found by some Officers to absorb much time. But as each Officer acquires practice, this difficulty disappears; on the other hand, the advantages of checking the influence of Native Ministerial Officers, and of a closer contact between our Officers and the people, are too obvious to require detailed mention.

Recording of evidence by the hand of the Judge.

78. The Oordoo or Hindostanee language has, heretofore, been used in all the Courts of these Provinces. This arrangement is not perfectly applicable to those parts of the Nagpore Province where the language used is the Mahratta. The Districts where Mahratta is spoken are those of Nagpore, Nachengaon (Wurda), Chanda, and Bhundarra. Many of the people there do indeed understand Hindostanee, and in Nagpore especially there are many influential Hindostanee settlers; but the vernacular which the great majority use among themselves is Mahratta. The adoption, then, of a foreign tongue in the Courts of Justice is unavoidably unpopular. And it leads to the almost exclusive employment of Hindostanee Ministerial Officials, who are foreigners to the Natives of Nagpore. This, again, must have a depressing effect on the indigenous talent, and tends to lower the educational tone in that Province. In the first instance, the employment of foreigners on account of their superior ability was necessary. But it will be desirable gradually to transfer these men to other Districts, and to admit Mahrattas more largely to employment in Mahratta Districts. This has now been ordered. It is further being arranged that plaints and petitions may be received in Mahratta, and evidence recorded in that language in cases where it is not recorded in English. On the other hand, the Oordoo is retained for many proceedings in which it is the more suitable language, and can always be used in those cases where the parties are Hindostanee. To the same end it has been ordered that all European Assistants and all Hindostanee Ministerial Officials employed in these particular Districts shall qualify themselves in the Mahratta language.

Language used in the Courts

Admission of the Mahratta language into the Courts of certain Districts.

Registration of Deeds.

79. The registration of deeds has been resorted to but little in these Provinces. In the Nagpore Province especially the people have not yet learnt to appreciate its benefits. It is not thought desirable to make registration compulsory; but Offices for this purpose have not only been opened at the head quarters of districts, but also have been ordered to be opened in all the Tuhseel Sub-Divisions in the interior, so that the people may have the means of registration ready at hand.

The constituting of Clerks of the Courts.

80. It is being arranged that the chief Ministerial Native Officials (Sheristadars) shall be vested with the definite responsibilities and functions of Clerks of the Courts in respect to giving effect, by supplementary orders, to the decrees and proceedings of the Courts. Of the competency and fitness of these men to perform such duties there can be no doubt, and a sense of responsibility will impose a restraint upon them.

Existing defects and their causes.

81. As regards the general administration of Civil Justice, I believe that it has been better in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories than in the Nagpore Province. The Officers in the Nagpore Province had, no doubt, difficulties to contend with owing to the great accumulation of cases and arrears shortly after annexation. Since then, however, there never have been in Nagpore those periodical reviews and revisions, without which, according to all experience in Non-Regulation Provinces, the Judicial administration cannot be successful. The present information is deficient; so far as it goes, however, it reveals many defects. These defects are, doubtless, in the main, attributable to the want of regular and constant scrutiny of results; the absence of the specific instructions and corrections which would have arisen therefrom; and the failure to enforce particularly such general directions as may have been issued. Detailed orders have now been passed upon the Report of 1861 (the first ever received for Nagpore), and arrangements have been made for a regular exhibition of the results obtained in every Court, month by month. Nothing short of this strict and continuous supervision will bring the Courts of these Provinces up to the average standard.

SECTION II

Criminal Justice.

82. The Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice for the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories have been incorporated, heretofore, in the Reports of the North-West Provinces. For the Nagpore Districts a Report for the year 1860 was recently submitted by the late Judicial Commissioner of that Province. For the year 1861, however, the Reports for all the Central Provinces have been combined into one.

Abstract Statement of Crime.

83. The following is the abstract of crime and criminals, offences and offenders, as shewn by this general Report :—

		Nagpore Division.		Jubbulpore Division.		Saugor Division.		Total.	
		1860.	1861.	1860.	1861.	1860.	1861.	1860.	1,897
Heinous Crimes ...	Cases reported ...	3,972	4,630	4,178	3,959	2,248	1,897	11,398	10,486
	" brought to trial ...	1,284	1,525	...	744	...	636	...	2,905
	Persons apprehended ...	3,085	3,056	...	1,350	...	1,047	...	5,459
Petty Offences...	Cases reported ...	4,113	4,315	1,709	1,893	2,162	2,785	8,004	8,993
	" brought to trial ...	4,142	4,161	...	1,902	...	2,204	...	8,267
	Persons apprehended ...	8,514	8,302	...	3,123	...	3,713	...	15,138
Total ...	Crimes reported ...	8,085	8,945	5,887	5,852	4,430	4,082	18,402	19,479
	" brought to trial ...	5,526	5,686	...	2,646	...	2,840	...	11,172
	Persons apprehended ...	11,699	11,388	4,268	4,473	4,343	4,760	20,330	20,621
Persons committed to Sessions ...		234	233	...	123	...	208	...	614
" convicted ...		6,284	6,768	2,498	2,597	3,091	3,286	11,853	12,661
" acquitted ...		4,883	3,976	1,481	1,853	1,168	1,144	7,503	6,773
" otherwise disposed of ...		51	92	...	65	...	22	...	179
Under trial at close of the year ...	Cases ...	111	59	87	18	52	57	200	134
	Persons ...	267	269	85	36	85	90	440	394

84. The aggregate of offences exhibits an increase of 1,036, or 5½ per cent, over the previous year. Such an increase in figures might shew, not that more crime had been committed, but that more had been reported. But it seems probable that there really has been a slight increase. The old Civil Police were less effective during this year, which was the last of their existence, and in which they were undergoing transition.

A slight increase of crime.

85. There being no complete population statistics in these Provinces, it were vain to calculate averages, or to draw conclusions regarding the relative proportion of crime to population. But, supposing the total population to be nine millions of souls, the number of crimes committed in 1861 would give 1 crime to every 462 souls.

Ratio of crime to the population.

86. It may be anticipated that the ratio of crime will probably be somewhat high. The people are not indeed of a proud, sensitive, turbulent, or fierce nature, which prompts to crimes of violence; nor do they possess that subtle and ingenious character which may conduce to crimes of fraud. But from its peculiarly centrical position the country is constantly traversed by wandering tribes of bad character. On many sides it is surrounded by wild regions, which give shelter to criminals. The extensive wastes favor the commission of many crimes against property. The low stage of civilization in the mass of the people leads to a disregard of human life and safety, and to a neglect of

Prevailing motive of crime.

* The new Chuttoeghur Division is not shewn separately this year.

social obligations. There is one moral defect which appears to prevail more than ordinary among the middle and lower classes, namely avarice. It will probably be found that crime in this country is committed more for the hope of gain than for the gratification of revenge.

Within the year, as the final decision was not issued till after the close of the year owing to delays in the Superior Courts.

87. There were 69 murders committed in 1861, of which 32 were successfully prosecuted. There were no capital executions.* The above proportion, then, of murders successfully prosecuted is not so high as might be hoped for. In some parts of India murder is most commonly committed by the men to avenge or punish dishonor of their women. But here such cases are comparatively rare; partly because the character of the women is fair, and partly because the people are not jealous on this point. But the murders generally proceed from sheer avarice; a man is murdered for his cash; a woman for her jewels; a child for its ornaments. The gain for the sake of which the horrid crime is committed is generally small, and might, in many cases, have been secured without the taking away of life.

Murders.

Meriah sacrifice of children nearly ceased.

88. In the south-eastern extremity of the Nagpore Province, (Bustar), the Meriah sacrifices of infants to an Indian Moloch once prevailed, and the stone block on which the victims were decapitated has been seen by British Officers. The horried rite is now believed to have been suppressed.

Absence of secret Infanticide.

89. There are no social causes here to lead to secret infanticide, and the crime is happily almost unknown. The maltreatment, and even killing of women on the supposition of witchcraft was once common in the eastern districts of Nagpore Province and Sumbulpore, and has existed even up to a recent date. It is now almost suppressed.

Suicides.

90. Suicide is common in some Districts, and shews how little the ignorant people reck of human life.

Thuggee.

91. It is to be remembered that the valley of the Nerbúdda was the original seat and home of thuggee. The first bands of thugs were discovered here; and these were the tracts most frequented by the tribes that wandered about seeking what travellers they might devour. Here also has been the head quarters of that Thuggee Department which has reflected so much honor on the criminal administration of India. After operations extending over a quarter of a century, it may be said that thuggee in Central India is repressed.

Gang Robbery.

92. There were 50 dacoities (gang robberies) within the year. Of these 5 were attended with murder, 26 with violence, and 19 unattended with aggravated circumstances. Of the whole, 12 were successfully prosecuted. The above return is, without doubt, unsatisfactory. The only redeeming consideration, however, is this, that the gang robberies were, in many cases, committed by

men from beyond the frontier; by robbers from Bundlecund or Malwa; by rebels still at large in the fastnesses of Central India; by those who took advantage of the protracted disturbances in Sumbulpore; by those who found refuge in the wild country of Rewa in the north, or of the Godavery in the south. Formerly inroads from the Rohillas and other turbulent characters in the Nizam's dominions were much dreaded on the South-Western Frontier of the Nagpore Province. At different times they have indeed committed depredations on the right or foreign bank of the Godavery, and laid villages in ruins; but these ravages were confined to the Nizam's dominions, and did not violate the British borders. In 1858, however, probably in consequence of the generally disturbed state of Central India, some parties of Rohillas had, on two occasions, crossed the river and plundered villages in the Chanda District. The offenders were pursued, and measures of chastisement were undertaken, and since that time no such outrage has been attempted. The arrangements recently made, whereby a portion of the Hyderabad Contingent is stationed at Woon on the Deccan side of the Wurda opposite Chanda, will render a raid from that quarter almost impossible. The measures successfully prosecuted by the Bengal Government for the suppression of the rebellion in Sumbulpore will probably prevent the recurrence of gang robberies in that direction.

Its causes and peculiarities.

93. But dacoity continues to occur in a very aggravated form on the Saugor Frontier, the robbers coming from the wild hilly country belonging to the Bhopal State, and to Maharajah Scindia's dominions in that quarter. These expeditions are probably headed by one Debee Singh, a Boondela (of Bundlecund), and an ex-leader of rebels in 1857. This man has long been a terror to that quarter. A reward of 5,000 Rupees has been put on his head, and a special Police Officer has been set on his track. But it must be said that in these particular affairs our own Police have behaved badly. Measures have now been taken to remedy the inefficiency of the Police in the Saugor District.

Robberies on the Saugor Frontier.

94. River dacoity is a thing almost unknown; in fact there is little or no navigation on the rivers to afford any temptation to this crime.

95. Of highway robberies there have been 73 in the year. These cases are none of them of a severe character. The roads often run for many miles through waste; and many particular trees or rocks are marked as spots where in former times robbers used to lie in wait for travellers. Organized and violent crime of this nature on the highways is now stopped by the distribution of Police posts. Still, with many miles of unprotected road intervening between the posts, it is not possible to prevent the occasional occurrence of petty highway robbery.

Highway Robbery.

96. There have been only 5 affrays in the year, a very small number. The unfrequency of this offence speaks well for the peaceable character of the people. It also shews that boundaries of land are not much contested.

Paucity of affrays.

97. Of cattle-stealing there have been 1,025 cases in the year; a large number of these might have been expected in a country with vast herds of cattle and boundless grazing grounds. The comparatively low number of the cases might lead to the apprehension that they are not all discovered or reported by the Police.

Cattle-stealing.

98. There have been 3,302 burglaries in the year; the number is larger than might have been expected, and the crime is by no means on the decrease, though the cases are not generally of an aggravated character.

Frequency of Burglaries.

99. Of ordinary theft there have been 5,590 cases in the year. It is well known that this class of crime does not, and will not, decrease under British Rule. The increase of the number of cases in the return of a particular year might really prove, not that more offences were committed, but that more were reported or prosecuted.

Ordinary Theft.

Adultery cases, few.

100. The Returns of the year shew 47 cases of adultery—a small number.

101. Of perjury there were 9 cases prosecuted within the year—a small number. It is not to be supposed that these Provinces are at all free from this, one of the prevailing vices of India, especially under British Rule. But in the more remote Districts, the people being more mild and simple, are less prone to falsify evidence in Courts of Justice. Here, as elsewhere, the summary punishment of this (to the Natives) venial offence is much needed. It is hoped that the new law, permitting the infliction of fine, may have this effect.

Perjury.

Forgery and false coining.

102. Of forgery and false coining there were 13 and 18 cases respectively. These crimes are apparently rare.

103. As regards crime, generally, the circumstances of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories preclude any comparison between the effect of Native and British Rule. But in the Nagpore Province, where such a comparison is quite possible, it is the general opinion of those able to judge that, under British Rule, violent offences, and offences against the person, have decidedly decreased; the less aggravated of the offences have not decreased, and have probably somewhat increased. This precisely accords with experience elsewhere.

104. In respect to the disposal of criminal business, out of 11,172 cases instituted during the year, there were only 134 pending at the close. This Return tells favorably for the industry of the District Officers and their Assistants.

105. The average duration of cases without assistance of Police was 10 days, and with assistance of Police 15 days; the former average is favorable to the Judicial Officers, the latter is not so

Despatch of Criminal business.

favorable to the Police. It is, however, to be remembered that in most districts the unavoidably excessive distance of Police posts from head quarters, and of villages from the Police posts, must cause delay. In the Nagpore Province there has been a marked improvement in both these averages, which shows that the despatch of business is improving.

Prosecution of crime not quite successful on the whole.

106. Of the total of crimes and offences reported, 19,479, there were only 17,172 actually brought before the Magistrate. In these cases there were 20,621 persons apprehended, of whom 12,661 were, more or less, successfully prosecuted. This proportion is not entirely satisfactory.

107. The ratio of acquittals to convictions has stood at 6,773 persons to 12,661 persons during the year. This Return shows that the comparative frequency of acquittals must arise from defective enquiries by the Police. In the Nagpore Province, however, there has been a general improvement in this respect within the year.

Attendance of Witnesses.

108. The Return of attendance of witnesses shews that of 51,511 witnesses in all, 47,134 witnesses were detained in Court for only one day, 2,975 for two days, and 972 for three; the remaining 430 being detained for longer periods. This Return generally indicates a prompt despatch of business.

109. The result of Sessions trials and of appeals from the district Authorities to the Superior Courts has been as follows:—

Sessions Trials.

	SESSIONS TRIALS.	
Sessions Trials.	Number of persons committed	798
	Convicted	430
	Acquittal	115
	Referred to Judicial Commissioner	68
	Died, transferred, &c.	31
	Pending at close of year	154
	APPEALS.	
	Cases instituted	458
	Appeals rejected	104
	Orders confirmed	244
	Modified or reversed	84
	Pending at close of year	26

This Return is, on the whole, favorable, except as regards the number of Sessions trials pending at close of the year.

110. In the disposal of Sessions trials there is excessive delay throughout these Provinces. As a rule, eight or nine months will elapse after a case is committed by the

Magistrate, before it will be tried by the Judge; and, if it be a murder case, two or three months more will pass away before the final sentence is carried out. After his commitment by the Magistrate, a murderer will generally be in Jail for nine months or a twelvemonth, before he is capitally executed.

Delay in their disposal.

111. This delay is not attributable to any particular Officer or Officers, but to the system whereby the committed prisoner remains in the Jail of his District until the Judge can come round on circuit, which may not happen for many months. Measures are now being devised to remedy this defect in future.

112. It is worthy of note that the Tahseeldars or local Revenue Officers, throughout these Provinces, have for some time been invested with petty Magisterial powers. These Officers disposed of no less than 5,528 cases within the year, and this in a creditable manner. They are all stationed in the interior and decide on the spot cases which would otherwise have to be dragged for miles to the Magistrate's Court. And, as their stations are being placed as much as possible on the main roads, the convenience of this arrangement to the people at large will become greater and greater.

Tahseeldars vested with Criminal powers.

113. In respect to punishments, the following are the numbers imprisoned :—

Classification of Punishments.

For 7 years and upwards	..	..	261
For 3 years and upwards	..	..	143
For 2 years and upwards	..	..	160
For 1 year and upwards	..	..	349
For 6 months and upwards	..	..	2,366

There were 558 flogged. But since the Penal Code came into force, the punishment of flogging is disused for the present. The virtual abolition of the punishment by the Code without the provision of an Act for flogging is causing great embarrassment in these Provinces. The punishment was largely and beneficially resorted to in the Nagpore Province, and is held to have been very efficacious. Its discontinuance, of course, increases the imprisonments, diminishing the deterrent effect of punishment, and crowding Jails already over-crowded. Juvenile offenders, too, must, for the present, be incarcerated, and the state of the Jail buildings seldom admits of their being kept properly separate from the bad example of criminals.

There were 8,318 persons fined, the total of fines imposed amounted to Rupees 64,144, of which Rupees 32,614 only were realized.

Security for good behaviour was demanded in 606 cases.

114. The aggregate of property stolen within the year was estimated at Rupees 3,75,362, of which Rupees 67,309 or 18 per cent. was recovered, a decidedly small proportion. This circumstance is not satisfactory. In the Nagpore Province, however, there was an improvement within the year.

Percentage of value of property recovered to the aggregate value of property stolen.

115. In respect to the Criminal Administration, generally, that which depended on the Magistracy was fairly done; that which depended on the late Civil Police was indifferently done. The general result on the state of crime was not satisfactory as regards violent and heinous offences, and sufficiently good as regards ordinary offences. The old Police, however, had many difficulties to contend with owing to the external character of the country. It remains to be seen what effect the organization of the new Constabulary may have on the Criminal Administration of the current year.

Investing Native Chiefs with Judicial powers.

116. This brief notice of Judicial Administration may conclude with the mention of the proposed system of investing Native Chiefs and gentry with Magisterial and Judicial powers. The principle has been admitted in the Punjab and Oude, and acted upon apparently with the best effect. It may be affirmed that there are few parts of India more naturally adapted for the introduction of such a system than the Central Provinces.

Various classes of Chiefs.

117. In many of the wild and remote districts of these Provinces, especially the eastern and southern parts of the Nagpore Province, there are large Zemindars. The nature of their tenures will be adverted to in the Chapter on Land Revenue. Such semblance of Police, as may exist within their extensive limits, is furnished by them. They are feudal Chiefs with complete actual authority over their people, who are, in fact their tenants and dependants; such are the Zemindars, 75 in number, of the Raepore, Bhundarra, Chanda and Sironcha Districts. Between the Frontier of the Raepore and Sumbulpore districts there is a cluster of Gurjat States, 12 in number, held by half civilized Chiefs, who have heretofore exercised complete power over their people, as yet, however, with an ill-defined and irregular jurisdiction. In the wild districts of Mundlah, there are several families who rose into their position under Mahratta rule, and now either exercise or claim ownership over scores of villages or hamlets scattered about in the forest. In the Sautpoora Hills, also, there dwell several feudal Zemindars in a position similar to that of their brethren in Nagpore. Throughout most of the Saugor and Nerbudda districts there exists a landed aristocracy. In the capital of Nagpore there are the family and principal dependants of the late Rajah. At the head of these there is the Rajah of Deor, who received his title as a reward for the fidelity of the family during the period of disturbance. At Saugor and Jubbulpore there are still the representatives of some of those families who rose to power under Mahratta rule. At Nagpore and Jubbulpore there are bankers, Natives of Marwar in Rajpootana, of high respectability, whose dealings extend to all the principal marts in Central India. On the whole, then, the upper class of Natives is well represented in the Central Provinces. And the above category is exclusive of the Rajahs of Bustar and Kalahundy, who are independent, subject only to political control.

118. Furthermore, there exists throughout these Provinces, Sumbulpore included, an important middle class in the interior of the Districts. It will be explained in the

Chapter on Land Revenue how the system of tenures has tended to establish and foster this class. Be the theory of that system right or wrong, the practical effect at this day results in there being found in most villages a headman, who is, in some sense or other, master of the estate, who has some tincture of education, and to whom the villagers look up. It has been the practice to hold these men responsible for the land revenue and for the general management of the village. Sometimes they are called "Patels," sometimes "Gountiahs," more frequently "Malgoozars;" all these names meaning, however, much the same thing. In the Nagpore Province also there exist hereditary Desh Mooks and Desh Pandyas, who once had a sort of jurisdiction over circles of villages. Whether the great lower class is in altogether a good position may be a question. But there can be no doubt that the middle class is well maintained.

The middle class.

119. European landholders and settlers are as yet rare. But it is hoped that their numbers will increase, especially after the opening of the Railways.

120. Now it would seem to be both just, generous, and politic to admit these various classes to a share in the Civil administration; to associate them with British Officers in the execution of measures in which all should have a common interest; to induce them to bear and discharge those responsibilities and functions which in all civilized countries attach to the various degrees of station, influence and wealth. That the classes in question are generally in these Provinces willing, indeed anxious, to undertake such functions and responsibilities is sufficiently certain. To invest them therewith, then, would have a double advantage; one relating to the Civil administration, one relating to the people generally, and particularly to those selected.

121. As respects the Civil administration, the system would, beyond measure, strengthen our hold upon the country. At present the difficulty of obtaining information of the condition of affairs in the interior, of producing any real effect upon the mass of the people, of making our influence reach to remote and scattered localities in these Provinces, is but too notorious. A partial remedy at least, to these defects, will be supplied when we shall have a Native *on the spot*, not only in every tract of country, but almost in every village, who has some acquaintance with our administration, some interest in its success, some responsibilities for its failure. Again, the men thus honoured and selected will be personally bound, in some degree, to the Government, and will, from the necessities of their position, be morally obliged to defend its measures and to vindicate its reputation. It has been truly said that, under our Civil administration, the people become like an army without Officers. But by the investing men selected from the upper and middle classes with Judicial powers, the link now wanting between the governors and the governed would be, in some measure, supplied

Advantage of conferring powers on the Native Chiefs and gentry.

To the State.

122. As regards the people themselves, the effect upon their character would gradually become considerable. Those who were selected would have hopes of distinction and fears of disgrace, which they have not now, and the absence of which makes their lives monotonous and their disposition apathetic. They are naturally sensitive to personal repute. Let that be enhanced by a measure of this kind, and the anxiety to preserve such dignity will operate as a stimulus to exertion in the cause of good government. While some are thus enlisted on the side of right and justice, others hope, by conduct and industry, to qualify themselves for a similar honor. Thus the motive for good extends over a wider circle. Again, if the powers and functions be graduated according to station, merit, and qualification, then those who are in the lower grade will strive to attain to the higher, and thus the actuating motive is rendered stronger and stronger. And if the standard of qualification be at first made moderate or easy, then a greater number of persons could be selected. Thus it might become possible, by degrees, to invest almost every man of respectability and position with some kind of public responsibility. And every person so selected would be wiser and better, both as a member of society, and as a subject of Government. Then, if the upper and middle classes were thus improved, the improvement would gradually affect and leaven the mass of the people. It is peculiarly observable in this country that the mass are inclined to follow their leaders, as the flock follows the bell-wether. The inferior tone, too often prevailing among the leading classes, notoriously operates as an impediment to national improvement. Whatever then shall raise the spirit, or prevent the deterioration of the upper and middle classes, will immediately, or at least ultimately, benefit the people.

To the People.

123. These remarks are offered because the question is almost new to these Provinces, and, at all events, has yet to be practically solved. One Native gentleman only has been as yet vested with Magisterial powers. It is right, indeed, that the character and antecedents of individuals should be scrutinized before the selection is made; still the local authorities are apt to assume a standard higher perhaps than is absolutely necessary, or than is to be expected from the gentry at present. More allowance should be made for their short-comings. It would not, indeed, be right that a man should gain practice and knowledge by exercising power, experimentally, over his fellows. But this objection will almost disappear if, in the first instance, he be entrusted with small limited powers, to be gradually increased as he acquires experience and fitness. And in every case the fear of losing the powers in the event of inefficiency or misconduct would serve as a powerful check. And as regards industry and application, in which Native gentry are now so often deficient, a decided impulse to these qualities would be given by the measure now recommended.

The nature of these powers.

124. There should now be the less difficulty in vesting Native Chiefs and gentry with Magisterial powers, inasmuch as by the new Police system all Magisterial Officers (except the principal Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner of the District) is restricted to the exercise of purely Judicial functions. The result is that individuals vested with these powers would only try the cases and prisoners brought before them by the Police. And this is a duty which in England is performed by unpaid Magistrates.

125. It has recently been proposed to vest all the Zemindars in the Nagpore Province with Magisterial powers and limited Judicial powers, so as to place them in a position similar to that of the Talookdars in Oude. It has also been proposed that the 12 Gurjat Chiefs should be gazetted to exercise the powers of Magistrates under the Act of Criminal Procedure. Similar recommendations have now been made on behalf of individuals selected in each of the various grades of Judicial and Magisterial powers according to the qualification and position of each man. The number of individuals recently recommended amount to forty-nine.

Magisterial powers to Zemindars.

To the Gurjat Chiefs.

126. According as our personal knowledge of the character of the leading men in every place shall increase, more and more will be found fit for some limited powers. Thus many of the village headmen may be selected for petty powers like those entrusted to Patels in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. At length there would be regular grades of promotion; the village headmen with petty powers; the rural Chief with special powers; the large Zemindar, the man of rank, or the feudal noble, with full powers.

127. Wherever the individual selected shall reside and have property in a particular locality or tract, it will be best to define his jurisdiction accordingly, as has been done in Oude, and also to some extent in the Punjab. But when, owing to the distribution or arrangement of villages, or such like cause, an exact jurisdiction on the above principle cannot be assigned, it will be convenient and practicable to give the individual power to dispose of any case, wheresoever arising, which may be referred to him, or a jurisdiction might be marked out for him near to his place of residence.

128. In the above category there would, for instance, be included State pensioners, who receive, not land, but money assignments; and who reside, not in the interior, but in cities. Such, for the most, are the family and relations of the late Bhonsla Rajah, who reside in the city of Nagpore. Several of them are well qualified for the duty, the performance of which they would esteem and honor, and which would tend to reconcile them to their altered position as subjects of the British Government. Several of these have now been recommended for Magisterial and Judicial powers. There are also other political personages in the interior who have been similarly recommended. Thus all these would have healthy employment for the occupation of their minds, and for the natural exercise of their energies and ambition, instead of nursing the remembrance of that which they ought rather to forget, or brooding over past circumstances which can never return.

To the Bhonsla family.

129. It has been provided that no expense to Government shall accrue from this arrangement, the individual exercising the powers must conform to the rules regarding record and returns, and must defray the cost of writing those, which, however, will be generally small.

130. If the measure be approved by Government, it will be necessary that the local Officers should treat the selected individuals with consideration and forbearance,

making allowance for faults and short-comings at the outset, and evincing a readiness to afford instruction until the novelty of the system shall wear off.

131. In concluding these remarks on the proposed system, I venture to repeat that (so far as my experience extends) nothing could be devised more calculated to raise the morale of the people and rivet our hold upon them, while there is no part of India where it is more needed, or could be more easily introduced, than in the Central Provinces.

SECTION III.

POLICE.

132. Within the period under report the entire Police of the Central Provinces has been re-organized. Here, as elsewhere, the Police were of three classes :—

I.—The Regular and Military Police.
II.—The Municipal Police.
III.—The Village Police.

Various kinds of Police.

133. It will be necessary to speak of the Regular and Military in three Territorial Divisions :—

1*st*.—That of the Nagpore Province.
2*nd*.—That of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.
3*rd*.—That of Sumbulpore and Seroncha, on the Godavery.

134. In the Nagpore Province the defensive and protective Force, exclusive of the Regular Military Force, consisted of—*first*, the Nagpore Irregular Force; and *second*, the Civil Police, both being under the then Commissioner of that Province. The Nagpore Irregular Force was indeed a Military body, and was charged for in the Military Department. Its war services will be duly recapitulated in the Military Section of this Report. But in 1861, when it was determined to re-organize the Police, the Nagpore Irregular Force was incorporated therein, and ceased virtually to belong to the Military Forces of this country.

135. In the beginning of 1861 the Nagpore Irregular Force stood at the following strength :—One Light Field Battery, one Cavalry Regiment 500 strong, three Regiments of Infantry, 1,000 strong each; the whole numbering about 3,803 men of all ranks. The total cost was estimated at Rupees 6,14,101, or 6¼ lakhs per annum.

Police in the Nagpore Province.

The Civil Police consisted of a body of Horse (called Moolkee) 705 strong, and of 3,049 Foot (called Burkundazes); in all about 3,754 men, costing Rupees 4,20,408, or 4¼ lakhs per annum. The total cost then amounted to 10¾ lakhs.

136. The first steps towards reduction were taken in 1861 by Colonel E. K. Elliot, then Commissioner of Nagpore. The Battery of Artillery and one of the

three Regiments were broken up, and the Cavalry reduced to 160 (two squadrons) and incorporated in the Police (Moolkee) Horse. It was at the same time proposed to organize, for the Nagpore Province, a Constabulary to cost five lakhs per annum. By that scheme, including the new Police and the remainder of the Nagpore Irregular Force, the total cost would have amounted to 9½ lakhs per annum. Thereafter the Government of India directed that the remainder of the Nagpore Irregular Force should be broken up as soon as possible, and embodied in the Police, and that the total of *all* Police expenditure should not exceed 6½ lakhs. With that view a revised scheme was submitted in October 1861, which comprised a fixed establishment within the prescribed limit of 6½ lakhs, provided for the gradual reduction of the Nagpore Irregular Force, and the maintenance of a number of supernumeraries until such time as they could be absorbed. This scheme, however, was not carried out at the moment, pending the order of the Supreme Government.

Proposals for its reduction.

137. At the same time the Police of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories came under revision. That consisted of Military Police, Horse 455 men, and Foot 2,522 men; and of a Civil Police of 2,168 men. The total cost amounted to 6½ lakhs per annum. It was proposed to break up both these bodies, and to substitute a new Police to cost 4½ lakhs at a saving of two lakhs on the aggregate of former expenditure.

Revision of the Police in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

138. The total expenditure proposed, then, amounted to eleven lakhs per annum, as follows :—

Nagpore ...	...	6½ lakhs.
Saugor and Nerbudda	...	4½ ,,
Total	...	11 lakhs.

In February last, however, the Inspector General submitted a detailed Schedule for all the above Provinces, which gave a total of (12) twelve lakhs. Thereupon the Government of India ordered, as again, that the limit of eleven lakhs actual be observed, and that the Police of the year be brought down as near as possible to that sum.

Limit of, prescribed by the Supreme Government for the Central Provinces.

139. On the 1st of May 1862, then, there were regular establishments costing twelve lakhs, and there were then Nagpore Supernumeraries (mentioned in the preceding paragraph and which had not been reduced,) costing about two lakhs more; so that the total Police expenditure was going on at the rate of fourteen lakhs. A reduction of full three lakhs, then, was required in order to meet the requirements of Government. With this view, then, retrenchment was carried out at once; the two remaining Regiments of Nagpore Irregular Force were broken up. This measure was effected without any

trouble. Most of the Sepoys were taken into the Police; inferior men being discharged to make room for them. The Moolkee Horse (including remnant of Nagpore Infantry) was reduced by about 100 men; the remains of the Saugor and Nerbudda Mounted Police, in all 150 men, were discharged; and all supernumeraries of all kinds were struck off. The Police reserve at all those stations where troops were cantoned was reduced. Within the space of one month not less than (2,000) two thousand men, Horse and Foot, were discharged. These several measures gave the required reduction, and brought the expenditure down to ten and a half lakhs, even below the limit of eleven lakhs. For the current year, then, the Police expenditure will be at the rate of 10½ lakhs, and on the 1st July the expenditure was actually going on at that rate, and no more.

Reductions recently carried out.

140. The place of the 1st Regiment Nagpore Irregular Force (broken up) at Raepore has been taken by a Wing of Madras Native Infantry despatched thither from Kamptee (Nagpore); and in place of the 2nd Regiment at Chanda, three Companies of Madras Native Infantry have been despatched to that Station. In future it is proposed that there should be one wing of a Native Infantry Regiment at Raepore, and the other wing at Chanda. At the same time (in order to lessen the number of detached Military Stations) the Detachments at Nursingpore and Baitool have been finally withdrawn to Hoshungabad, the Head Quarters, and the withdrawal of the Detachment from Dumoh to Saugor has been arranged for. On the whole, then, simultaneously with the introduction of the new Police no less than seven detached Companies of Madras Native Infantry have been permitted to join their respective Head Quarters.

Madras Native Infantry stationed at Raepore and Chanda.

141. After this there followed the re-construction of the Police in Sumbulpore and Seroncha.

142. In Sumbulpore, during the past several years, owing chiefly to local disturbances, the defensive Force had been considerable. In 1861-62 there were the Sebundy Levy, 500 strong, and several Companies of Bengal Military Police. By the time the District was transferred to the Central Provinces, the Military Police were withdrawn, and there remained the Sebundy Levy, besides some (80) eighty Civil Policemen. The Levy is now being embodied in the new Police, which is to consist of 380 men of all ranks. This arrangement will give a saving of 32,000 Rupees per annum, the new Police being calculated to cost 55,000 Rupees against 87,000 Rupees of the previous year. The men of the late Sumbulpore Levy will make excellent Policemen, being natives of the Sumbulpore District, and inured to its peculiar climate.

Police in Sumbulpore.

143. In Seroncha there had been no regular Police organized; the defensive Force consisted of a small Sebundy Levy of 100 men. Besides these there were a few Policemen in the Bustar State, now a Dependency of Seroncha. In Bustar it is found necessary

to strengthen the Police party, to preserve order during the frequent disputes between the Bustar people and those of the Jeypore State in Madras jurisdiction. It is also desirable to place some additional Police Stations at several points on the banks of the Godavery, in order to protect the increasing traffic and the various establishments now being employed in that vicinity. For all these purposes, then, a new Police of 152 men has been organized at a charge of 16,000 Rupees per annum. Into that the Sebundy Levy has been incorporated. And now a Police Officer has been ordered to Doomagoodum, on the Godavery, the Head Quarters of the Navigation Establishment.

Police in Seroncha.

144. The total Police charge for the Central Provinces, then, is as follows :—

	Rupees.
Central Provinces	10,50,000
Add for Sumbulpore and Seroncha	71,000
Total ...	11,21,000

or 11¼ lakhs of Rupees. The Government allowed eleven lakhs, and the Police Commission recommended 10½ lakhs. But that was for the Central Provinces, *exclusive* of Sumbulpore and Seroncha; and the lowest amount arrived at, for the Central Provinces as then understood, falls *within* the limit of eleven lakhs.

Final Police charge for the Central Provinces.

145. The real reduction of charge, owing to the organization of the Constabulary, may seen as below; the figures relate to the *whole* of these Provinces, including Sumbulpore and Seroncha :—

	Rupees.
January 1861	18,09,113
October "	16,87,852
January 1862	16,40,088
May "	14,92,000
July "	11,22,206

Amount of savings actually effected.

The difference, less, between the last and the first figures, amounts to Rupees 6,86,907, so that it may be said that the re-organization of the Police in the Central Provinces has saved seven lakhs per annum to the State.

Abstract of the present Establishment.

146. The establishments of the new Constabulary may be thus abstracted :—

Men.		Rupees per annum.
1	Inspector General	22,800
2	Deputy Ditto	26,400
12	District Superintendents	94,800
7	Assistant Ditto	36,600
10	Probationary Officers	6,960
45	Inspectors	59,880
6,284	Foot Constabulary	5,76,380
613	Mounted Constabulary	1,67,712
	Office Establishments	26,400
	Allowance and Medical Establishments ...	22,632
	Clothing	42,574
	Contingencies	16,300
	Extra and temporary Allowances, Pensions, &c.	22,764
Men ... 6,974		Rupees ... 11,22,206

In round numbers it may be said to stand at 6,000 Foot (of all ranks), and 600 Horse, the remainder being made up by European and Native Officers. There are now no establishments remaining to be organized, and not a single soldier within these Provinces, save those of the regular Army.

147. Moreover, it is noteworthy that the new Police Force is *scattered in small bodies all over the country*. At few points are there more than fifty men together, and at no place more than one hundred.

148. The principle laid down by the Police Commission, that every city and town should pay for its own Police, has been carried out. There are 57 cities and towns in these Provinces, maintaining a municipal Police for themselves without any aid from the regular Establishment. The Municipal Funds are raised chiefly by town duties. The aggregate of funds thus disbursed amounts to Rupees 67,411, and of men thus employed to 1,000. The latter total added to the former would give an aggregate of 7,974 men.

Proportion of the Police Force to area and population.

149. Now if it be desired to ascertain the proportion which the aggregate bears to area and population, then, taking the population at 9½* millions of souls, and the area at 117,800 square miles, it will appear that there is one Policeman to every 1,190 of inhabitants, and to every 15 square miles. Both these averages will contrast favorably with those assumed by the Police Commission, namely, one Policeman to every 1,000 of inhabitants and to every 5 square miles. In fact the new Constabulary is moderate if compared with the population, and even

* Including Native States under administrative or political control.

low if compared with the area. The population, though sometimes dense, is generally sparse. Populous or inhabited tracts are scattered, often at enormous intervals, over wild, woody, and inhospitable regions. If this circumstance, which constitutes a peculiar difficulty to a Police Establishment, be remembered; if it also be borne in mind that there are three troublesome frontiers adjoining Foreign Territory to be guarded, and scores of wild Chiefs within our own borders to be watched, then the new Establishment will not appear excessive.

150. As regards expenditure per head, it will be found that the cost per man per annum amounts to 161 Rupees—which appears to be a moderate rate.

Composition of the new Constabulary.

151. It were premature to pronounce positively regarding the material of the new Constabulary. It will possibly be found to contain too many men drafted from the inefficient Civil Police; but it contains, certainly, a good Military element. In its ranks there are now most of the best men from the late Nagpore Irregular Infantry—men who behaved with fidelity and gallantry in 1857. The mounted Police consists entirely of the Mahratta Mookee Horse. These men, though not smart troopers, were in the employ of the Bhonsla Rajahs of Nagpore. Their fathers and their relatives were in the service for generations, and they have strong local connexions. They behaved with marked fidelity throughout the whole period of disturbance of 1857-58.

152. It were still more premature to pronounce on the merit or otherwise of the new Constabulary in the detection and suppression of crime. They take all the duties mentioned in the Report of the Police Constabulary,—so far as is yet known, the result is not unfavorable. But it should be mentioned that, recently, several serious dacoities have been committed by armed gangs on the Saugor Frontier.

The village Police.

153. The village Police has been placed under the supervision of the Police Officers. The remuneration and position of the village watch have not been fully fixed, but are being arranged together with the settlement of the land revenue.

The carrying and possessing of Arms.

154. There is one point further connected with the Police administration which requires notice in this chapter, namely, the carrying and bearing of arms. According to Act XXXI of 1860, a proclamation was made, and large quantities were given up by the people, and lodged in custody. This was not, however, done in the Nagpore Province. It is not now proposed to take any further measures of a general nature. A regular disarming process is sure to entail oppression. In some parts of the Nagpore Province it will be practicable to prohibit the carrying of arms; and if this be done, the possessing of arms falls gradually into disuse. In other parts it is desirable that the people should carry arms. As regards the bearing of arms by Europeans it should be actively encouraged, so that every non-Military European within the Central Provinces may become a trained Rifleman.

155. The present Report can only deal with the re-organization of the Police. The next Report may shew the actual results of that measure. But in this place the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, the Inspector General, ought to be noticed, both as regards the rapidity with which the organization was effected, and the care and judgment with which orders for retrenchment were carried out by him. Moreover, this Administration is under special obligation to the Inspector General in India, Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce, C. B., for the valuable advice he gave in important measures, and the care with which he scrutinized the establishment from first to last. The support afforded also by Brigadier McLeod, Commanding the Regular Troops at Kamptee, did greatly facilitate the breaking up of the Nagpore Irregular Infantry.

SECTION IV.

Jails.

156. The Jails are fourteen in number, one being at each of the principal Civil Stations. Besides these there are four "Lock-ups," one being at each of the four minor Districts. The total then amounts to eighteen.

Number of Jails and Prisoners.

157. The average annual number of prisoners may be stated at 4,000 (four thousand). From Returns received it appears that the existing buildings are properly calculated to hold only 2,576 prisoners.

Jails of Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

158. The Jail buildings in respect to style and structure may be divided into two classes—*first*, those of the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories; and *second*; those of the late Nagpore Province. The Jails of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories were mostly built about twenty years ago, with solid and excellent masonry, in a much more complete and substantial manner than would be thought necessary now-a-days. On the other hand, according to recent ideas, their construction would not be considered as well suited to conservancy, internal economy, or ventilation. The Jails of the Nagpore Territories have never been actually built. The buildings that now serve as Jails are temporary make-shifts of the worst description. Sometimes they consist of places where the Mahratta Government would confine its prisoners; sometimes they are sheds hastily erected inside old native forts; sometimes the hovels are burnt down accidentally; sometimes they tumble down during a heavy fall of rain. They are generally situated in unhealthy sites, and sometimes in the heart of native cities. In respect to interior economy, they are altogether defective. The above description is also applicable to the Sumbulpore Jail. To the latter category the only exception is the Chindwarra Jail, which is much better than the other Jails of the Nagpore Province.

Jails in Nagpore Province.

Central Jails.

159. It is not thought desirable to build new Jails at each station, but rather to erect, gradually, Jails of a superior description at four central stations, namely, *Nagpore*, *Raepore*, *Jubbulpore* and

Hoshungabad, and to maintain Lock-ups at the other stations. Of the former the one at Nagpore has been sanctioned at a cost of 1½ lakhs of Rupees, and will be commenced in October next. In the mean time, to relieve the over-crowded and defective Jail in the Nagpore City, some two hundred of the long term prisoners have just been removed into a large vacant hospital in the outskirts of the Civil Station.

Average cost of prisoners.

160. The annual cost per head of prisoners has not been high, averaging 32 Rupees. There are, however, extensive variations among the different Jails in the rates per head for food, clothing, and guarding, of which the marginal instances may be selected. The conclusion is inevitable that, after due allowances being made for variety of local circumstances, some Magistrates are less economical than others in the management of the Jails. The total Jail expenditure amounts to Rupees 1,16,497, or 1¼ lakhs per annum. If real economy could be enforced, and an impression made on the mass of this expenditure, and the rate reduced, in some of the Jails whose expenditure per each prisoner has averaged from 40 to 60 Rupees per head per annum, to say 32 Rupees per head, which is a fair rate in Upper India, then there would be a large saving.

	Average cost of food, clothing, and guard	Average cost under all headings.
	Rs.	Rs.
Nagpore	28	44
Bhandarra	18	48
Baitool	17	23
Seonee	18	22
Saugor	21	24
Jubbulpore ...	19	27
Chindwarra	13	32
Kuota	18	30
Chanda	19	40

The guarding of Jails.

161. The permanent guard duty is now taken by the new Constabulary. The scale of these guards has recently been revised with a view to reduction. The extra or contingent guards are regulated at the usual rate of one guard to every five prisoners.

In-door Labor.

162. The strength of guards generally is greater than might have been expected, because the "In-door Labor" system has not been introduced thoroughly into any Jail, and not at all into many. At some stations indeed, owing to the extreme scarcity of labor, the services of the prisoners for local works out of doors have been indispensable.

Jail Manufactures.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Nagpore ...	1,026	8	6
Raepore ...	995	8	6
Bhandarra ...	185	2	7
Chanda ...	200	0	0
Chindwarra ...	102	7	10
Jubbulpore ...	2,08[illegible]	1	6
Narsingpore ...	492	12	5
Seonee ...	5,601	8	11
Saugor ...	503	7	9
Damoh ...	283	13	4
Hoshungabad ...	196	7	6
Baitool ...	365	10	2
Total ...	12,103	5	4

163. Neither has the system of Jail manufactures been thoroughly introduced. It exists to a certain extent in the Nagpore, Jubbulpore and Saugor Jails; but no fabrics have been introduced worthy of special mention. The profits of Jail manufacture during 1861 have amounted to the sums marginally noted. Gardens are generally attached to the Jails, some of which are in fair order.

164. The instruction of the prisoners in reading is carried on to a limited extent in some of the Jails.

Solitary and separate confinement.

The system of solitary and separate confinement, of appointing monitors from among the prisoners, and of mitigating terms of sentence in reward for good behaviour, have not yet been introduced. The attention of the District Officers has now been called to this subject.

The system of grouping prisoners in wards according to the class and gradation of crime has been partially adopted.

165. Emeutes in the Jails have never occurred of late, and escapes have been rare. So far the general conduct of the prisoners must be pronounced fair.

Health of the Prisoners.

Districts.	Daily average sick per cent.	Percentage of mortality.
Nagpore	2·841	5·08
Raepore	4·65	3·70
Bilaspore	11·02	5·00
Chanda	4·30	5·16
Chindwarra	6·14	3·10
Nerbudda	3·00	5·70
Saugor	6·44	2·72
Jubbulpore	2·75	0·77
Mundla	6·52	3·14
Betool	15·12	6·04
Seonee	2·80	2·38
Hoshungabad	8·81	2·11
Nursingpore	5·20	3·36
Hoshungabad	9·20	1·53

166. Epidemic disease in the Jails has been rare, and the general health of the prisoners has been fair, as will be seen from the percentage of sickness and mortality given in the margin. In some of the worst Jails indeed the health of the prisoners has been remarkably good. This tolerably favorable result must be in a great measure owing to the prisoners having been well fed, well clothed, and well tended, both in quarters and in hospital.

Civil Surgeons in charge of Jails.

167. Recently the Civil Surgeons at the several stations have been placed in charge of the Jails in subordination to the District Officer. This will lead to a better supervision and closer division of responsibility. Generally the Civil Surgeons have evinced a laudable interest in the Jails, and I desire to mention Doctors Heude and Bensley of Nagpore and Raepore respectively. Both these Officers have done much by their personal efforts to make up for the unavoidable defects of the Jails under their charge.

Inspectorship of Jails.

168. If the above review does not show a perfectly satisfactory result, it is hoped that improvement may be effected during the present year. But it is to be remembered that these Jails have not as yet enjoyed an advantage which has been allowed to the Jails of other Provinces, namely, that of *competent inspection*. The Saugor and Nerbudda Jails were under the Inspector of North-Western Provinces, who was too far distant to exercise a real check; and the Nagpore Jails have never had an Inspector at all. Now all these Jails are many years behind the Jails of North-Western Provinces and Punjab. If these latter Jails need an Inspector, how much more must our inferior Jails need one? The appointment of an Inspector of Prisons for the Central Provinces has now been recommended.

CHAPTER III.—REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

169. **The land revenue for the Central Provinces has been estimated at 51 and ¼ lakhs exclusive of Sumbulpore, or with that district at 52 and ¼ lakhs per annum, or a little more than half a million sterling.** The actual demand for the year 1861-62 amounted to Rupees 51,76,152. There was a large nominal balance uncollected owing to the postponement for 10 days of the last instalment, for an object purely connected with routine. Half a lakh of nominal balance also accrued owing to the informal reduction of assessments. Real, doubtful and irrecoverable balances amounted to 2¾ per cent. of the whole real demand. They chiefly accrued in the Nagpore Division.

Annual yield of Land Tax.

170. The revenue is distributed as follows over the various districts :—

Its distribution over Divisions and Districts.

		Rupees.	Rupees.
NAGPORE DIVISION.			
1.	Nagpore	12,74,256	
2.	Raepore	5,78,831	
3.	Bhundara	4,48,128	
4.	Chanda	2,65,137	
			25,67,352
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.			
1.	Jubbulpore	4,77,004	
2.	Nursingpore	3,31,092	
3.	Seonee	1,52,377	
4.	Mundla	35,001	
5.	Chindwarra	2,42,497	
			12,17,971
SAUGOR DIVISION.			
1.	Saugor	5,79,396	
2.	Hoshungabad	3,30,706	
3.	Baitool	1,38,385	
4.	Dumoh	3,12,632	
			13,61,119
	Sironcha	-	29,710
	Total	-	51,76,152

171. Thus many districts are very poor, and none, excepting that of Nagpore itself, are really rich. The cultivated area is not yet even approximately known, but it is certain that not more than one-seventh of the total area is cultivated. How much of the remaining six-sevenths may be culturable, not even a conjecture can be hazarded. That a large proportion, however, is not only culturable, but even highly rich and promising, may be certainly believed. In only a few and scattered portions is the cultivation fully developed, and much of the richest waste will have to be cleared of pestilential

forest and brushwood before it can be reclaimed. Nor are there any sufficient data for stating the average rate per cultivated acre of the land tax. It probably ranges from four and six annas to two and two and a half Rupees per acre. The average rate can hardly exceed eight annas per acre, which, taken per se, will appear moderate as compared with the land tax in other parts of India. But still it generally is quite as much as the people can properly bear; and its low standard only indicates the backwardness of agriculture and the want of useful works, of markets for produce, and of facilities for traffic.

Its average rate per cultivated acre.

172. The different kinds of agricultural produce have been explained in the introductory chapter.

Incidence of Tax on different kinds of Crops.

The following rates may convey some idea of the incidence of the land tax on the different kinds of crops :—

	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.	
Cotton	0 12 0	to	3 0 0	
Poppy	7 0 0	to	15 0 0	
Sugar-cane	5 0 0	to	10 0 0	
Betel-leaf	6 0 0	to	125* 0 0	* According to kinds and mode of cultivation.
Garden vegetables, turmeric, ginger, dill (ujwayun), cummin (zeera)	5 0 0	to	15 0 0	
Chillies	3 0 0	to	5 0 0	
Egg-plant, anise, coriander, methee	2 0 0	to	4 0 0	
Wheat	0 8 0	to	2 0 0	
Juwary	0 12 0	to	3 0 0	
Linseed	0 8 0	to	2 0 0	
Gram	0 8 0	to	2 0 0	
Tobacco	2 0 0	to	7 0 0	
Moong, mussoor and other vetches	0 6 0	to	1 0 0	
Ganja	0 12 0	to	3 0 0	

Prices of Agricultural produce.

173. The following figures will give some idea of the range of prices of agricultural produce :—

	Nagpore. M. S. Ch.	Jubbulpore. M. S. Ch.	Saugor. M. S. Ch.	
Wheat	0 24 7	0 30 12	0 23 0	Per Rupee.
Gram	0 27 0	0 36 10	0 24 0	
Dal	0 22 0	0 26 7	0 19 0	
Rice	0 21 0	0 14 7	0 12 0	
Sugar	0 2 4	0 2 7	0 2 8	
Salt	0 6 11	0 4 13	0 8 0	
Ghee	0 2 0	0 1 13	0 1 5	
Cotton	0 2 9	0 0 0	0 3 0	
Goor	0 7 8	0 6 5	0 5 0	
Oil	0 3 14	0 3 14	0 0 0	

In the last two years prices have much risen, partly because the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories supplied grain in great quantities to the famine-stricken districts of the

North-West and partly because there has been some drought and scarcity in Nagpore itself. The low range of prices in Chutteesghur is remarkable, and arises from the isolation of that naturally fertile district, and its seclusion from markets.

Tenure of Land.

174. The tenure of land, as recognised by the British Government, is, in all essentials, the same throughout the whole of the Central Provinces. The identity of system in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, the Nagpore Province, and in Sumbulpore, is indeed remarkable.

The Government is in theory the universal landlord. In every village or estate there is a lessee, who takes the lease from Government, who contracts to manage the property, and to pay a fixed sum for a particular term of years. The occupants are the tenants of the lessees. There can be no doubt that this tenure is peculiar; it is indeed probably unique in British India. The question naturally arises—How did it come into existence? In order to answer that question it will be necessary that I should glance at the past history of landed tenures in these Provinces.

Origin of Tenures.

175. Village communities, such as those which are found in North-Western India, have not existed of late years in the Central Provinces. Whether they originally existed is a question which cannot be discussed fully in this Report. In the northern Districts they probably must have existed. In the southern Districts they probably never did exist perfectly.

In the Nagpore Province.

176. In the Nagpore Province the villages do not, so far as can be ascertained, seem to have been founded by families who settled down on terms of equality, and whose multiplied descendants form the brotherhood of the present day. But some man of enterprise with a slender capital would take some tenants, or dependants with him to reclaim the waste, or clear the backwoods. His descendants are the landlords, and their descendants the tenants of subsequent generations. Much of the Nagpore Province was, doubtless, settled in this manner, and the method would certainly have been encouraged by the Mahratta Government. And this supposition would not be controverted by the fact that in the Western Deccan the Mahrattas may have pursued a different policy. There they were in their native land, and were only the chief among equals in countries long settled with thriving communities. Here they were foreigners, succeeding a half-civilized dynasty, obliged to spread cultivation over rich but untilled soil, and to contend with the encroachments of the forests. In the Nagpore District, then, the headman, though called by the ancient and honoured title of "Patel," was not always the hereditary chief of a village community. He was a village farmer with complete powers over the tenantry. That this was the real state of things under the rule of the Mahrattas (Bhonslas) in Nagpore may be seen from Sir R. Jenkin's elaborate Report written in 1826. During his virtual regency, which lasted long, and which will be favorably remembered still longer, he maintained this system generally, improving it at the same time by British administration. The farmers, on the other hand, held their

leases on moderate and equable terms, the tenantry were in a great degree protected from the exactions of the farmers; but the title and rights, or rather the absence of title and rights, on either side, remained the same. When the Rajah came to govern in his own name the system which, whatever it may have been in theory, was fair in practice, did certainly deteriorate. Farmers were changed more frequently, sometimes they were supplanted by those who had interest at Court, or belonged to the royal family or household, or had influence with the Army; sometimes they were superseded by men who offered to pay a higher revenue; and sometimes estates, tenantry, and all were even put up to auction for the highest bidder.

Their subsequent development.

177. At this distance of time it is more difficult to describe the state of things which immediately preceded the British rule in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. But the country had long been the theatre of war and invasion. Revolutions, sweeping in succession over the land, had beaten down and destroyed the villages. On the restoration of peace people returned to their fields in twos and threes. Men of rank, wealth and influence undertook to restore ruined villages, to re-settle husbandmen on deserted fields. It was thus, no doubt, that farmers and tenantry became substituted for village communities.

Tenure in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

178. In Sumbulpore nearly the same system has existed as that of Nagpore; but if similar in kind, it has been superior in degree. The headmen of villages in Sumbulpore are called "Gowtees." They are also farmers; but their hereditary position has always been respected, and most of the tenants under them have rights of occupancy which are never disputed.

Tenure in Sumbulpore.

179. These, then, are briefly the pre-existing conditions upon which the present farming system supervened. I presume that the object of every sound method is to adapt itself to the local circumstances of the country, giving those circumstances a fair chance of expanding and improving of themselves, rather than to impose on the people any system, however theoretically perfect. It would not, therefore, be proper to introduce any new system which had in no wise existed before for the sake of its advantages, real or supposed. But it is useful to note the merits and drawbacks of each existing system, though it may not be possible to authoritatively devise any change or remedy.

180. It may be observed, therefore, that the prevailing system in the Central Provinces has fostered and established, if not created, a middle class among the agriculturists; and that at least one of this class is to be found in the majority of villages. These men can generally read and write; they are often of a superior class and tribe to the villagers. But often they rise to a grade above this, and in some Districts of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories there is a numerous and respectable landed aristocracy. The value and usefulness of such a class are too obvious to require further remark. On the other hand, with many exceptions, the cultivators and occupiers of the soil are some

Prevailing system favorable to middle class in the Central Provinces.

Rather than to the lower class

times depressed, and generally not so flourishing as in other Provinces, and the average standard of industry, intelligence, enterprize and self-reliance among the agricultural peasantry is decidedly low.

181. Such generally were the circumstances, proximate and remote, under which the farming system was adopted by British Officers throughout the Central Provinces. Under British rule it has existed in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories since 1826, in Nagpore since 1854, in Sumbulpore since 1850. Rightly or wrongly, the opinion has prevailed with our Officers that an estate cannot be managed without a responsible head residing in or belonging to it; that the occupant cultivators must be dependant for support and guidance on a landlord; that for the State to collect its Land Tax from individual cultivators is objectionable. The village community system of the North-West is almost unknown; the Ryotwary system is deemed objectionable; the Zemindaree system on a large scale as applicable to tracts of country, or circles of villages; or the farming system on a small scale as applicable to single villages, have alone been understood.

Adoption of the Farming system by the British Government.

182. Having thus endeavored to explain the origin of the system, I must particularize some of its main features. As already stated, then, Government has been generally the owner of all estates, and every estate is leased out to a farmer or lessee, technically termed "Malgoozar." Various terms of lease have prevailed in various Districts. They have generally been short, except in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, where the leases were made in 1826 for periods of twenty years. The lessees could not sell, or transfer, or inherit, nor was there any clause to give them a beneficiary interest in improvement. The occupants or cultivators of the soil were the tenants of the lessees. That which they paid to the lessee in cash was regular rent, and for each estate a rent roll was prepared. Their payments were usually in cash, not in kind many of them possessed rights of occupancy, and the amount of rent leviable from such was limited by proscription, that is, these latter were liable only for certain fixed rates of rent, and so long as they paid that they could not be ejected. If a tenant should desert or default, his fields were at the disposal of the lessee. If the lessee could introduce new tenants to reclaim the waste, the extra rent contributed to his profits. The lessee might be the hereditary headman of a village, though this was not frequently the case. He would more commonly belong to a family who had acquired possession of the village some generations previously, and had held it from lease to lease ever since. Sometimes he might be a local Chief, sometimes he might be a stranger, a merchant, a banker, a speculator in land, or a Court favorite.

Character of this system.

The Farmers.

Their tenants.

183. There are, however, many great Zemindars who are, it is believed, absolute masters of their estates paying an almost nominal revenue fixed, it has been alleged, in perpetuity. These great estates are situated in peculiar localities, either near the turbulent frontier in the north, or

Great Zemindars.

to the forest regions of the east and south. Many of the Zemindars are rude Chiefs of old descent.

Such briefly was the tenure of land up to a very recent date, whence it followed that, except in the Zemindaree estates, there was no such thing as private property in land. But recently it has been proclaimed both in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and in the Nagpore Province, that in future the Government will relinquish its proprietary claims, and that the rights of absolute ownership shall in future, subject of course to payment of land tax, be vested in those who may establish a fair claim thereto. In every case these claims and titles are being investigated. In some Districts these enquiries have been commenced, in some partly finished, in others not yet begun.

Farmers declared proprietors.

184. The tendency of these proceedings is to confirm most of the farmers as landlords, and superior proprietors. Those who have been long in possession will be sure of confirmation as such. With strangers of but recent possession the result may be otherwise. In all cases the rights of the sub-holders will be protected. These may, in some instances, be found to amount even to proprietorships of particular occupancies, subject, probably, to a fee of superiority or seigneorage.

185. The boundaries of every estate will be marked off, and within them the ground and all its products, the cultivated, the culturable, and the waste will be the absolute property of the declared owner, saleable, transferable, heritable, subject only to the payment of land tax, and without any other reservation.

Terms of Assessment.

186. This tax will be fixed at an annual sum for a period of years. The limitation of the Government demand for a term of years is really the settlement. At the expiry of that term the demand may be revised, either maintained, or enhanced, or reduced. But the property in the land being perpetual and absolute, will not be open to any question at the renewal of the settlement, except the revision of demand. The question will not be who is the proprietor, or who shall be responsible for the land tax; but merely whether an estate shall be assessed with as much as before, or with more or with less. The owner of the land will, of course, be responsible for the land tax. The word "Farmer" and the word "Lease," except under special and extraordinary circumstances, will be banished from our fiscal vocabulary.

Applicability of various fiscal systems.

187. Upon the issue of these enquiries depends the precise form or forms which the future land revenue system will take, and it would be premature to predict how matters will even finally shape themselves. The circumstances of the country, and of the state of society are, however, so various, that probably no uniform system will in future be possible. That is to say, if the assessment of the land tax is to follow closely on the right of private property in the soil, and if the system of the settlements is to adapt itself rightly and justly to each particular form or phase of landed property, then no particular system can be prescribed beforehand. To me it appears that each of all the revenue systems known to British administration is good in its

place, and is suitable to the social constitution of some particular Province. Therefore, in Provinces like these situated in the midst of the other divisions of the empire, touching in one quarter on the North-West Provinces; in another on Madras; in another on Bombay; in another on Bengal; there will be various customs and conditions and circumstances to which one or other of the several systems will be applicable: to some the Zemindaree; to others the Ryotwary; to others the Talookdary; to others the village community system. The notion that the Ryotwary system is necessarily inapplicable to these Provinces (which notion has prevailed to a considerable extent) cannot, as seems to me, be reasonably maintained; but, on the other hand, it certainly would not be generally applicable.

Right of the State to unclaimed waste.

188. But to return, while thus the State is relinquishing all proprietary claim over cultivated land, and over uncultivated or waste land, which is in any way virtually occupied for pasturage or for operations connected with agriculture and the like, it does not relinquish its claim over the unclaimed and untrodden *waste*. The claim of every proprietor to the waste pertaining to his estate will be heard. To every estate or village will be allotted at least a fair proportion of waste sufficient for grazing, for pasturage, for fuel, for wood-cutting; and also sufficient to allow the landholders fair margin for increasing their cultivation and for making improvements. In all these respects the fullest consideration will be given to the rights and interests of the people.

189. This done, the exterior boundaries of the estate will be marked by pillars and entered in a sketch map. Within those limits the proprietor will have the benefit of the improvements he may make, but beyond these limits the State is the owner of the unclaimed waste, and can grant that waste to grantees, or otherwise dispose of it. This demarcation of boundaries is now progressing. In three Districts it is finished; in six it is proceeding; in eight it is not yet begun. In the latter a commencement should be made during the next working season. In some Districts, such as Mundla, grave doubts arise both in respect of private property, and in respect to granting of waste to capitalists for want of a proper demarcation of boundaries. While the rights of the people are most scrupulously respected, care must be taken to guard the future rights of the State; otherwise many square miles of waste, as yet of unknown value, might be inadvertently allotted to village landlords. These men would nominally take over a vast extent of waste which they might have never seen at all, or scarcely heard of, and of which they could never develope the resources. At the settlement, then, the available Government waste will be carefully separated from that waste which is private property. And, if needful, these portions suitable for grants can be surveyed specially.

Demarcation of boundaries.

190. But while the ownership, together with the full rights of landlord, is secured to those who can prove a title thereto, the subordinate and concurrent rights of the tenant occupants of the soil are duly cared for. Whatever may be the ultimate and relative proportions of the several kinds of proprietary tenure, there can be no doubt but that hereditary tenants with rights of occupancy, and limitation of rent payable by them,

Tenants' right protected.

are a large and important class throughout these Provinces. In many places they are the thews and sinews of the general body of agriculturists. Their rights are being carefully recorded where they happen to be of the same tribe or family with the new proprietors, their claim (as has been said) to be made joint proprietors may be found admissible. In cases where the farmer may have been a stranger, and his connexion with the village may be terminated at the settlement, the hereditary cultivators may be admitted to separate and direct engagements for the land tax, and as peasant proprietors may be placed in the same position as the Meerasdar ryots in Bombay. In some estates, where the hereditary cultivators are more than ordinarily strong, and pay but a low fixed rent to the landlord, their position will be virtually almost as good as that of the ryots in the most favored Ryotwary Districts.

Position of hereditary Cultivators.

191. The Zemindars of the Nagpore Province have been already alluded to; they are numerous in the hilly and wooded Districts; they are no less than 75 in number; they chiefly belong to the Gond and Rajpoot tribes. Under the native rule large tracts of land were made over to them to be brought into cultivation. Many of them have played, in the various revolutions and events of these Provinces, a part which might almost be termed historical. Some of them can date their present position so far back as centuries. They pay various sums to Government annually, varying from Rupees 50 to 27,000, and aggregating Rupees 2,51,370, which may be considered either as tribute, or as revenue, more probably the latter. These amounts are supposed to be fixed in perpetuity. But in fact this class of tenures has never yet been defined, and no record in detail regarding them is extant. The question as to their possessing Civil jurisdiction has been mentioned in another chapter. But as regards their fiscal powers, and the extent of their proprietary power, nothing whatever has been ascertained as yet. Hereafter a report will be submitted to Government with a view to these important tenures being placed on a definite and permanent basis. It will probably be found that they are in a position similar to that of the Talookdars in Oude. Whether there are any, and if so, what, subordinate rights in their estates is quite unknown. But if it be found that they have heretofore enjoyed absolute authority over their tenantry, then noninterference will be desirable. In that case the Zemindar will be a great feudal landlord. But beyond the comparatively cultivated and inhabited estates, there will be within the extensive and ill defined areas of these Zemindaries (some of them extending over tracts as large as Districts) valuable wastes and forests. In this day no man can say *how* valuable these tracts may become hereafter. While, therefore, the real, memorial or seigneurial rights of the Zemindar are respected, it will be desirable to scrutinize more closely his pretensions to vast tracts of waste in which there may be no semblance of possession.

Origin of the large Zemindars.

Their fiscal powers.

Their right to the waste.

192. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories the former settlement expired in 1856. The regular settlement was commenced in 1853-4, and has since been dragging its slow length along. As yet no

Settlement operations in Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

settlement has been completed, nor has any assessment been announced, although in most of the Districts much preliminary work has been done. In the meantime, that is for the last six years, the revenue has been collected according to the old assessment under promise made to the people on each estate that, should the new assessment, when made, exceed the present one, no demand on that account, for the intermediate period will be made; but, on the other hand, should such assessment be less than the present, then the tax-payer will be entitled to a refund for the said intermediate period. In the Districts north of the Nerbudda it is well known that the people will, in many cases, be entitled, according to the above rule, either to remission of revenue, or to refund of amount over-paid. Again in these Districts, where the old assessment has been evidently too high, and uncollected balances have constantly accrued, such balances have been allowed to accumulate till they shall be finally remitted at the new settlement, and they already amount to three lakhs. Now it is obvious that these expedients, however necessary at this moment, have a demoralizing effect on the landholders, and induce them to keep their lands out of cultivation. In some places this circumstance is known to be causing agricultural deterioration. Thus, while on the one hand the State is being subjected to future loss in the Divisions north of the Nerbudda, by reason of the settlements being delayed; on the other hand, it is not receiving its fair amount of land revenue in the Districts south of the Nerbudda; for those Districts are known to be under-assessed, and will yield an increase at the new settlements. These considerations afford strong reasons for advancing the settlements. Various proposals in this view have now been submitted, and it is hoped that during the next season some real progress will be made in the assessment.

Accumulation of revenue balances.

193. In the Nagpore Province a Settlement Department was set on foot, first in the Nagpore District itself in 1858. Much preliminary work has been done, but no assessment has yet been announced. A second establishment was set to work in the Bhundarra District in 1861. A small establishment has just commenced work in the Sumbulpore District. Throughout most parts of the Nagpore Province, except perhaps parts of Chutteesghur and Chanda, the assessments of the last settlement are supposed to be somewhat high and uneven.

Settlement operation in the Nagpore Province.

194. The term of the assessment is to be 30 years in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and Nagpore District. Perhaps for the more eastern Districts a shorter term may be desirable.

195. There are many large estates held either free of revenue altogether, or else upon some favorable rate, resembling a quit rent. These have all been disposed of. In the Nagpore Province there was a special alienation Officer employed for this purpose. But in all Districts there remain petty tenures, thousands in number, claimed to be held free of revenue and requiring investigation.

Rent-free tenure.

The extra cesses.

106. The extra cesses are the same in these Provinces as elsewhere. There are the one per cent. for roads and the charges of the village watchmen and the village accountant. The one per cent. for education has just been ordered. It had not previously been levied. The remuneration of the village watchmen has not been fixed by any thing more than precarious custom, but will be definitely arranged at the settlement. The village accountants have been appointed and trained in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, but not generally in Nagpore. In the latter Province the farmers or landlords have their own accounts kept with tolerable efficiency, and it will be preferable not to disturb this arrangement. It is better to let the landholder have his own accountant than for the District Officer to appoint a man. But whenever these village accountants are appointed it will be desirable that they learn to conduct the rough survey of boundaries and fields, which work is now done by employés (Ameens) of the Settlement Department.

The Desh Mookhs and Desh Pandyas.

107. There is another class of men, once so important, but now approaching extinction, which requires to be noticed, namely, the Desh "Mookhs" and "Desh Pandyas," names familiar to those who are versed in the History of India, as the managers and accountants for circles of villages. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories these men must have originally existed, but they perished in the several revolutions. In the Nagpore Province they have always existed, and though not appointed or employed by the Mahratta Government, they continued to receive certain fees and perquisites. Under British rule they have not been officially recognised, and their income has ceased. This is perhaps to be regretted. Enquiries regarding each of these cases have been, however, proceeding for some years past. These are now nearly complete, and recommendations in favor of the surviving Desh Mookhs and Desh Pandyas and their successors will be submitted.

Coercive processes.

108. The revenue may have been collected with some *difficulty* in a few instances, but yet those coercive processes known to the law in the Bengal Presidency as sale and transfers of the land have not been enforced in these Provinces. If a farmer defaulted the lease has been made over to another, or the defaulter himself has either been thrown into prison and his moveable effects sold by auction. Except in particular Districts, however, even these latter processes have been rare. After the new settlement, however, the property in land will be liable to be sold absolutely in satisfaction of the Government demand. It may, indeed, be hoped that this extreme measure will rarely or never be resorted to.

Special supervision of the settlement operation.

109. On the whole the regular settlement, embracing both a permanent tenure of property in the soil and fixity of assessment, constitutes one of the most pressing needs of the Central Provinces at the present time. For the want of it deterioration is taking place in some places, and the improvements of land now cultivated, and the reclaiming of lands now uncultivated, is retarded everywhere. The tardiness of its progress, and the important question involved in it, have been already pointed out. The more the work is inspected

the more does it become apparent that great irregularities, perhaps errors, of practice, are arising; and certainly great diversities. With a view to secure uniformity of practice, together with due recognition of various principles, and a really competent supervision over the whole, special proposals have been recently submitted to Government. If these shall be sanctioned, it is hoped, not only that progress will be made, but that it will start from a sound basis and proceed in the right direction.

200. It is necessary that this chapter should include a brief notice of the important question of the "Permanent Settlement." It may, perhaps, be superfluous to state that here, as elsewhere, a permanent settlement would affect only the land tax itself. It would fix the assessment for ever, and it should be more accurately termed the permanent and perpetual limitation of the direct State demand on the land. It would in no wise affect the fundamental right and property of the people in the land. *That* rights and property will be fixed, absolutely and immutably, whether the land tax be limited to a certain sum for ever or not. The *value* and interest of such right and property will indeed be greater or less according as the State demand is fixed for a short or a long term, or for ever. But under any circumstances, the nature and essence of the right and property itself will remain the same. Here, then, as elsewhere, in the above sense, the *principle* of a permanent settlement is applicable. It would have an effect altogether beyond immediate calculation, in stimulating the industry, enterprise, and self-reliance of the agriculturists; the application of capital; the accumulation of wealth, where the assessments were fair. It would be accepted as a great boon by the people. On the one hand, the State, no doubt, will subject itself to prospective loss by surrendering all future right to increase its land revenue. But, on the other hand, such loss would be more than compensated by the gradual, if not rapid, increase of all the other branches of the revenue. These branches entirely depend on the growth of wealth in the mass of the people. A permanent settlement will contribute more than any measure that could be devised to augment that wealth. It follows that a permanent settlement will cause all other heads of revenue, except land tax, to increase. Now in these Provinces more than one-third of the total income is derived from taxes other than the land tax. The other taxes are increasing; the land tax alone remains stationary. In a fiscal point of view, then, there can be no fear for the success of a measure which would, while restricting the land tax, cause all other taxes to rise. Again it is quite true that the value of money will continue falling, and that prices of produce will rise more and more throughout these Provinces. Thus the agriculturists will, in a short time, receive much more for their produce than they ever did before; on the other, the price of labor will rise, and that will greatly enhance the State expenditure. All the salaries and establishments of the lower grades at least will be gradually raised, and the cost of public works will be greatly enhanced. There might appear to be some risk, then, if Government, while anticipating increased expenditure, were to limit the land tax,

The permanent settlement.

Its relation to property in land.

Its great advantages.

More than counterbalances any disadvantages.

the main source of revenue. But it will in reality be quite safe to trust to the increase of other taxes.

201. A permanent settlement, then, so far as it can be introduced, will be, *firstly*, good for the people; and *secondly*, equally good for the State. The questions remaining are—To what extent could it be applied? and *when* could it be introduced?

Prospects of future improvement.

202. Now it is to be ever remembered that in these Provinces the Railway, the Roads, and the Navigation, will certainly work great changes; while similar results are *not* here to be expected from irrigation. But this prospect exists here in common with the rest of India, neither more nor less. If, then, the prospect of material improvement does not bar the concession of a permanent settlement elsewhere, neither should it have that effect here. So far, then, as Railway, Roads, and Navigation are concerned, the Central Provinces seem as much entitled to the advantage of a permanent settlement as other Provinces of India. But further it is to be borne in mind that the amount of culturable waste in these Provinces is enormous; and though this condition may exist, more or less, every where, it is peculiarly prevalent here; not only are vast tracts of culturable waste vaguely claimed by parties with doubtful title, but within the legitimate boundaries of many, even perhaps the majority of, estates and villages throughout these Provinces there is a large proportion of culturable waste. Now although the inducement held out by a permanent settlement to reclaim the waste is one of the cardinal benefits of that measure, still it is but fair to the State that this privilege should be kept within

Extent to which permanent settlement might be introduced.

moderate bounds. It would be right to allow, to every estate permanently settled, a just margin of waste as a field for extending cultivation. But it would not be right to allow a permanent settlement to an estate which might include a larger or indefinite area of waste at present quite beyond the means of the owner to reclaim, but capable in the future of being rendered valuable by a variety of contingencies. Thus in these Provinces there are many estates and villages, many entire tracts, and some entire Districts, where a permanent settlement could not at present be properly introduced. Such Districts are Raepore, Belaspore, Sumbulpore, Seroncha, Bhundarra, Mundla, Seonee, Chindwarra, Baitool. All these Districts are in a transition state.

Districts suited for permanent settlement.

203. On the other hand, there are some Districts in each of which a permanent settlement might be introduced into *parts*, but not the *whole*, with as much benefit and as much reason as into other parts of India; and into these the introduction of the measure has been recommended. These Districts are Nuggore, Chanda, Nuchengaon (Wurda), Jubbulpore, Saugor, Dumoh, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad. All these Districts (excepting Saugor and Dumoh) have large portions of their area continuously and highly cultivated, and subject to the same kind of development as the rest of India. The Saugor and Dumoh Districts are more rugged and do not possess long strips of cultivation like those just named, but in other respects their position is the same. As regards past assessments, some have been too high, and others too low, but this circumstance is not peculiar to these Districts, and is but

too common everywhere. On the other hand for the Jubbulpore, Saugor, Dumoh, Nursingpore, and Hoshungabad Districts there are the fiscal data, year by year, during thirty-five years of British Rule. For the Nagpore, Nachengaon, and Chanda, *besides* the British assessments, there are the data of the assessments made during the regency exercised by Sir R. Jenkins and his Officers.

Permanent Settlement recommended.

204. It has therefore been recommended that, at the new settlement in these Districts last mentioned, now in progress, the Settlement Officer should recommend the permanent limitation of the assessment fixed by him in every estate which might appear to him fitted for, or deserving of that concession, and that this boon, if approved by Government, should be granted. The Settlement Officer would fix the future assessments for all estates alike, in some for a term of 10, and in others for a term of 30 years, in others, the best of all, he would recommend that the term of the assessment be for ever or permanent. In those estates recommended for the permanent assessment one essential condition should be that three-fourths of the culturable area should be under cultivation at the time of fixing the assessment, and it might be competent for the Authorities hereafter to recommend that any estate assessed for a term of years should, on attaining the prescribed condition of three-fourths of the culturable area being cultivated, be granted the boon of having its assessment declared permanent. Thus if a permanent assessment be really desired by the people, then this system would induce every landholder to increase his cultivation so as to secure the boon;—and thus the greatest possible stimulus might be imparted to agricultural industry. As the new settlement advances, and as the assessment and the proprietary right is declared in each estate the landholders will be duly apprised of the option allowed to them by the Government Resolution of the 17th October 1861 of redeeming the land tax, that is, of freeing their land from all payments for ever, by compounding for the tax by one sum paid down. It is probable that few, if any, will avail themselves of this privilege at first.

For certain estates under certain conditions.

205. The natural advantages offered in these Provinces for European colonization will be noticed in another chapter. In this place it will suffice to state that particular grants of large extent on the banks of the Mahanuddy and Godavery, and in the Mundla District, have been promised on certain terms to the agents of some gentlemen who propose to form a company for bringing land into cultivation. The Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company have obtained a very extensive grant of many square miles in the Nursingpore District. In respect to these grants it is to be borne in mind that in these Provinces their extent must be expected to exceed greatly the maximum of 3,000 acres each, prescribed generally in Bengal, while the price of the land will seldom come up to the maximum of two Rupees per acre, fixed in the Government Resolution. Here the European capitalist would have to found villages in a wilderness, extending over hundreds of square miles in an insalubrious climate, and far away from roads and markets. Such circumstances indefinitely depreciate the value of waste lands.

Terms of Grants to European Settlers.

206. There is yet one point remaining to be noticed. It has been found also that the numerous tanks, some of them resembling lakes in expanse, and all, more or less, extensive, in which the Nagpore Province abounds, and which have been constructed under former dynasties for purposes of irrigation, have of late years fallen very much into disrepair. Many of them have been inspected, and every one thus examined has been found out of repair, and some even broken, in many cases, too, nothing like the full use is made of the water by the people. It is evident that the villagers themselves are too ignorant and apathetic to take care of these valuable works of public utility, and that some better means of supervision than at present are required. On the other hand, the District Officers and their subordinates in the interior (*i. e.*, the Tehseeldars) have never given their attention to irrigation, and do not generally understand the subject, as yet. It has, therefore, been proposed that an Officer with engineering and professional *knowledge* be deputed as a temporary arrangement during the next cold season to visit all the principal tanks in the Province, and in every case either to instruct the people how to make the requisite repairs, or else report the matter to the District Officer, who would then make the requisite arrangements. It is hoped that in few instances will any expenditure on the part of Government be needed. The people would generally defray the cost ultimately, receiving only advances from Government (Tuccavee) re-payable afterwards. Wells are not generally used for irrigation, save in some Districts. In the Baitool District, however, hundreds of new wells (640 in number) of small size have been constructed by the people within the last few years.

Supervision of works of Irrigation.

207. The foregoing review of the land revenue in these Provinces will have shewn that the whole subject is in a difficult situation. The points demanding the most urgent attention may be recapitulated as follows:—

Summary of measure requiring attention.

I.—The marking off boundaries of villages and the waste.
II.—The principles of adjudicating proprietary titles.
III.—The application of various systems of tenures.
IV.—The determination of subordinate and tenant rights.
V.—The early announcement of an assessment for a term of years.
VI.—The selection of estates for permanent settlement.
VII.—The supervision of works of irrigation.

208. It is but too certain that not one of the matters above specified is as yet settled, or approaching to settlement, for the whole of these Provinces. When they shall have been arranged, then, and not till then, will the country advance. Until they are arranged material prosperity will, more or less, be retarded.

SECTION II.

Other Branches of Revenue.

209. The most important of the minor branches of revenue in these Provinces is the salt tax. The salt consumed in the Central Provinces is of two kinds; *first*, the salt from the Salt Lakes of

Salt Tax.

Rajpootana, which is consumed in the northern and central Districts (Saugor and Nerbudda Territories). For this salt, used above the Sautpoora Range, the inhabitants look to Rajpootana, which is the great source of supply to the North-West Provinces.

Different kinds of Salt.

Below the range they look for salt to Madras and Bombay, but chiefly to Madras. Thus the *second* kind is the salt from Madras and Bombay, consumed in the Nagpore Province. On both kinds of salt a duty is fixed. On the first kind of salt (Rajpootana) it is levied by means of a regular line drawn from Agra, *viâ* Jhansie (in the North-West Provinces), to the Saugor Frontier; thence across the Nerbudda to Seonee (in the Sautpoora Range), and then turning eastward and north-eastward, so as to guard the access to Mirzapore. Thus no salt can enter these British Districts from Rajpootana in the west without crossing this line.

210. In the Nagpore Province a duty is levied without any regular line by local arrangements, that is to say, the dealers are called upon to pay duty on their known transactions. Under such arrangements the full duty of Government cannot, of course, be realized; but a regular line would not be worth the cost of its maintenance on those wild frontiers.

211. On the Saugor and Seonee line above described the duty was first raised in 1855-56 at Rupees 1-8 per maund of 80lbs; it was raised to Rupees 2-8 in 1859-60, and in 1861-62 to Rupees 3, at which it now stands, being uniform with the duty on the North-West Province line. The duty is high and is sometimes complained of; but in the year 1861-62 just closed there has been no falling off in consumption, whence it is inferred that the people can afford to pay the rate. It will be evident, however, that this line does not include the Hoshungabad and Baitool Districts, and part of the Nursingpore District, which thereby become exempt from any tax on salt. It would be, of course, desirable that these Districts should be taxed equally with the others, but this cannot be done by means of a *line*. It has been found, by actual experience in these localities, that to establish a cordon of watchmen in the hills and forests would absorb all the revenue to be gained. But it will be possible, by local arrangements similar to those adopted in Nagpore, to raise a local duty similar to the regular duty. Arrangements for this purpose are now being made.

Duty on Saugor and Seonee Customs line.

Duty proposed for certain Districts.

For Town of Saugor.

The Town of Saugor also enjoys an unnecessary immunity, being a free mart for the convenience of traders who store salt there, that is to say, salt may enter the town free to be stored, paying duty on being despatched elsewhere, and being liable to duty if kept in store beyond a certain time. But in fact this freedom is not really necessary for the convenience of dealers, and arrangements are being made for the abolition of the privilege, which has allowed the inhabitants of Saugor City (some 60,000 souls) to consume untaxed salt.

212. In the Nagpore Province the duty is levied at the rate of 1½ Rupees per maund. This rate is only half that of the northern line, but then the Nagpore salt all comes from Madras and Bombay, where it has been first taxed up to 1½ Rupees per

maund; thus the original duty being added together, make up the 3-Rupee rate, just equal to that of the North-West Provinces. Whether the imposition of this duty has checked consumption or otherwise cannot as yet be affirmed. It probably has not, inasmuch as the actual yield of the tax is double the original estimate. The Madras Authorities on the Eastern Coast, whence most of this salt comes, seem to be apprehensive of their export trade being injured by this duty. But there are not as yet sufficient facts to justify this conclusion. If ultimately such should be proved, there would be reason to re-consider the duty. All that is known for certain is that the Native dealers on the Madras side dislike the duty, which circumstance, however natural, would not alone furnish sufficient reason for remission. In the first instance the entire realization of the duty was entrusted to an eminent Native Banker of Nagpore (Bunseedhur Abeerchund), who employed his own establishment, being allowed 5 per cent. therefore on the collections. This arrangement, however desirable at the outset, could not properly be continued, and the arrangements have now been entrusted to the ordinary District Authorities.

Special Duty in the Nagpore Province.

Still the price of Salt at Nagpore, one Rupee for 12 or 16lbs, is undoubtedly high.

213. Since the formation of the Central Provinces the practicability of extending the Saugor and Seonee line, so as to embrace the Nagpore Province, has been considered. I believe that such a project would be found impracticable. The line might, indeed, be easily carried down the Wurda to Chanda, or even to Seroncha, but that would enforce duty on Bombay salt only, and not on Madras salt. To effect the latter object it would be necessary to carry the line along the Godavery, and then up through a very wild country for hundreds of miles till it touched the Mahanuddy. It would indeed be difficult to find a country more unfavorable for such a line. If the local duty, then, be continued, it must be levied in some such manner as that which now prevails. Whether there should be a duty at all may be another question. It may be true that a Native of Nagpore now pays twice as much salt tax as a Native of Madras or Bombay, but then he pays somewhat less than a Native of Bengal, and the same as a Native of Northern India and as his fellow subjects of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

Difficulty of drawing a Customs line round Nagpore Province.

Yield of Salt Duties.

214. The yield of the salt tax may be thus shewn :—

	Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.	Nagpore Province.	Total.
1861-62 ...	6,59,200	... 2,88,920	... 8,98,120
1862-63 ...	6,75,000	... 3,00,000	... 9,75,000

The first duty having been imposed in 1855-56 for the northern port, and in 1861-62 for the southern, it is evident that this new branch of taxation, now amounting to 10 lakhs per annum, has proved an important addition to the revenue of these Provinces.

Income Tax.

215. The income tax in these Provinces amounted in 1860-61 to Rupees 1,46,088, and in 1861-62 to Rupees 4,25,002. After recent modifications it is estimated to yield

Rupees 3,00,000 in 1862-63. The machinery employed was inexpensive; for the current year there is to be no charge at all for establishments. The remission of the tax upon all the smaller incomes is regarded as a boon by the people.

216. The license tax having been abolished before being fully carried into effect needs no special remark. But with it there was to have been amalgamated the "Pandree" or house tax in the Nagpore Province. This house tax being of old date and familiar to the people will be retained. Under Mahrattah Rule it was levied on the whole non-agricultural community (with certain favored exemptions) upon a graduated scale. The scale is now being revised and regulated throughout the Nagpore Province. But the tax is not now known in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

House Tax.

217. The excise on drugs and spirits is a flourishing source of revenue. In 1860-61 it amounted to Rupees 7,49,385, in 1861-62, to Rupees 8,96,499, and is estimated to yield Rupees 9,00,000 in 1862-63, or about 9 lakhs. The spirit is chiefly extracted from the fruit of a tree called the "Mohwa," which grows wild in great abundance. Hitherto it has been distilled in the villages at native stills. But the introduction of what are known as "Sudder" or Central Distilleries has just been ordered after the model of the North-West Provinces. It is hoped that these distilleries will be under efficient regulation.

Excise on Drugs and Spirits.

218. Here, as elsewhere, the stamp revenue has steadily increased as seen below :—

Stamp Revenue.

1860-61.	1861-62.	1862-63.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1,67,230	2,57,189	3,00,000

The highest sum being estimated at about 3 lakhs. The new Act X of 1862 has been just introduced, much of the success to be anticipated will depend on the number of private vendors who may be established, and the importance of this has been duly impressed on the District Officers.

219. There is a small amount* of taxation raised from *Sugar* by means of a local license, in the Nagpore Province, and by means of an export duty levied on the Saugor and Seonee Customs line already mentioned.

Tax on Sugar.

	Rs.
1861-62	... 2,34,700
1862-63	... 2,37,400

220. The revenue on Opium† is also raised by a local license chiefly in the Baitool District. It is believed that the system may admit of much improvement, and enquiries with that view are being made by an Officer possessing special experience in the opium-growing Districts of Malwa.

On Opium.

	Rs.
† 1861-62	... 10,806
1862-63	... 12,000

221. The Town duties, or Octroi, have now been assessed, and are being levied in all the towns and cities of these Provinces, (with one or two exceptions, which will soon be brought up). Their total yield amounts to Rupees 2,38,615 per annum. From these duties all the Police charges, both for regular Police and city watch, within

the towns and cities themselves, are defrayed, and the total debit on this account amounts to Rupees 67,411. The remainder is devoted to local improvements. Thus as yet no portion of this tax is included in the imperial revenue. The average *ad valorem* rate of these duties seems high, amounting to five or even six per cent. In Nagpore City a relief has been granted. In Nagpore, and some of the cities in that neighbourhood, the collection of the duties was entrusted to the eminent Native Banker, Bunseedhur Abeerchund. This arrangement, however desirable at the outset, could not be permitted to continue, and the duties will in future be managed in the ordinary manner.

Town Duties or Octroi.

222. The revenue of the Provinces in its various branches for the years 1860-61, 1861-62, 1862-63 may be exhibited as below. The estimate for the year 1862-63 being taken from the joint Report of Colonel Elliot and myself:—

	Land Revenue.	Abkaree.	Stamps.	Income Tax.	Salt, Sugar, Opium.	Saer, Misc.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1860-61 ...	51,69,750	7,49,385	1,07,220	1,46,998	6,87,656	7,76,734	76,47,739
1861-62 ...	51,76,152	8,96,499	2,07,189	4,25,002	11,43,636	3,83,711	82,32,179
1862-63 ...	52,00,000	9,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,000	12,25,000	3,75,000	83,00,000

223. In general terms it may be said that the land tax will not on the whole increase, while the future increase of the salt tax is doubtful. But the other heads of revenue, drugs and spirits, stamps, opium, sugar and the like, will probably increase owing to the general rise in prices and in wages. The total revenue, short of one million per annum, is small for so large a country; but the alienations are considerable. If the population be assumed at nine millions, the total average revenue per head amounts to 14 annas per annum.

Total Revenue.

224. The recent date of the annexation of the Nagpore Province affords the means of comparing the Mahrattah and British taxation in that Province, a comparison which may be not interesting. The following general comparative Abstract will shew the results of taxation under Mahrattah and British Rule respectively, the amount being given roughly in lakhs:—

Comparison of British and Mahrattah revenue in the Nagpore Province.

	Land Revenue.	Customs and Transit Duties.	Spirits and Drugs.	Stamps.	Income Tax, Licensed and House Tax.	Salt, Sugar, Opium, and Tobacco.	Miscellaneous.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mahrattah Rule...	32,00,000	6,00,000	1,50,000	.....	.....	.....	60,000	40,60,000
British Rule ...	29,00,000	.....	5,50,000	1,50,000	2,50,000	3,75,000	75,000	43,00,000

From the above it seems that the revenue is increasing under British Rule beyond any thing known under Native Rule.

CHAPTER IV.

EDUCATION.

State Education in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

225. State Education can only be said to have been introduced, as yet, into about one-third of the Central Provinces, namely, the Districts belonging to the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. For the remainder of these provinces there is no such Education existing, as will be seen presently.

Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, Mundlah, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, Baitool and Seonee.

226. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, comprising the Districts named in the margin, the Educational system of the North-Western Provinces was established when those Districts came under that Government in 1853. It has been maintained up to the present time. There is now an Inspector of Schools at the head of it, with a Staff of Native Officials. The total expenditure, all items included, amounts to 48,000 Rupees per annum.

The Saugor School.

227. The principal Institution is the School at Saugor, where the English language and the learned Oriental languages are taught. It has about 300 pupils, many of them boys of good families, from the several Districts of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories; some of them are even of noble family. It is presided over by an European Head Master, Mr. Wiggins, aided by an efficient Staff of Native Teachers. This School is one of a general rather than a local character, and receives scholars from other Schools. In some respects, too, it serves as a Normal School, receiving pupils for instruction in the profession of Schoolmaster.

228. There are no regular Zillah Schools, according to the Departmental designation, that is, Schools at the Head Quarters of a District.

229. Nor are there any regular Normal Schools for the professional instruction of Village Schoolmasters.

The Tehseelee Schools.

230. The Tehseelee Schools (according to the Departmental designation) have been generally established, there being one at the Head Quarters of each Tehseeldar. The Tehseel is the Civil sub-division of a District; and there are 3 or 4 such to each District. Thus there are about 27 Tehseelee Schools in all. In these the Education is entirely vernacular (being conducted in the Oordoo and Hindee languages). These are supposed to be generally in fair condition.

Village Schools.

231. Indigenous Village Schools exist, supported by voluntary contributions among the Villagers or towns-people. In these the instruction is chiefly carried on in the Hindee language, the agrarian population being chiefly Hindoos, who prefer Hindee to Oordoo, which latter is more suitable to Mahomedans. But these Schools, though inspected by the Educa-

tional Officials, have not, in any way, been re-organized. And the fund known as the Village School cess (one per cent on the land revenue) has not been levied.

232. Private Schools in the cities and towns, and even the larger villages, are tolerably numerous and efficient.

233. There is one Mission School at Jubbulpore, belonging to the Church Missionary Society, with about 180 pupils.

Mission School in Nagpore City.

234. In the Nagpore Province no Educational system had been introduced; no Government School existed; and no public expenditure on this account had been incurred. There had, however, been, for some time, a good Missionary School* in Nagpore belonging to the Mission of the Free Church of Scotland, established in 1846, and numbering 400 boys and 20 girls. If it has not attained to a high standard with the upper class, it has given a sound and practical education to the middle and lower class; and has been a powerful engine for good in the City. A small School of humble pretension had been established by one of the Scotch Missionaries at Chindwara, and had afterwards been maintained by private effort. The one per cent. cess for Village Schools had not been introduced. Village Schools and all private Schools have continued at a very low ebb. Indeed, few provinces could be more destitute of indigenous Institutions than Nagpore; and the general standard of enlightenment, both in the mass of the people, and the upper classes, is decidedly low, and much under even the Indian average.

* Under the management of the Rev. S. Hislop and the Rev. G. Cooper.

No State Education in Nagpore Province previously.

235. In Sumbulpore there has existed a School for some years, originally founded by the benevolent efforts of Dr. and Mrs. Cadenhead, and subsequently maintained by Government.

236. Such was the state of affairs up to May 1862; it now remains to mention the measures already in progress.

New Educational measure.

237. There will be two Circles of Inspection, conterminous with the Civil Divisions of the country, viz., the Northern or Nerbudda Circle, embracing the Commissionerships or Divisions of Saugor and Jubbulpore, and including in all 9 Zillahs or Districts; and the Southern or Nagpore Circle, embracing the Nagpore and Chuttoesghur Commissionerships or Divisions, and including 7 Zillahs or Districts, besides the separate District of Seroncha.

Circles of Inspection.

Educational grant.

238. An Educational grant of 50,000 Rupees for the current year, 1862-63, for the Nagpore Province, has been obtained, and a similar grant for the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories; in all one lakh per annum for State Education in the Central Provinces.

Directorship formed.

239. A Director of Public Instruction, and an Inspector of Schools (European Officers) have been appointed; the former with Head Quarters at Nagpore, the latter at Jubbulpore. An Inspector (European Officer) for the Nagpore Province has been recommended to have his Head Quarters at Raepore, in the remote Eastern Districts.

Subordinate Staff of Officials.

240. The existing Staff already described has been maintained in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and a Normal School for Schoolmasters has been added at Jubbulpore. For the Nagpore Province great difficulty has been experienced in forming a Native Educational Staff. Nothing can be a stronger proof of the backwardness of knowledge than the fact that, in such a City like Nagpore, there could not be found even *one* Native fit to undertake scholastic duty!* The men readiest to hand were educated Natives of Hindoostan; but I did not deem it proper to employ these men as they are quite foreign to, and not popular with, the Natives of Nagpore. Instead of that, men from Poona have been sent for, and several well trained young Natives are on their way to join our Educational Staff. These persons, being Mahratta Brahmins, will readily command influence at Nagpore, where the associations and ideas are all Mahratta. It is hoped that this infusion of fresh though kindred blood will soon produce an effect on the popular mind.

* *Note.*—It is not hence to be understood that no boys of superior education had been eleves of the Mission School. Several boys from that School have been employed in other Departments.

Schools in the interior of the Nagpore Province.

241. One of the first points to which attention is being directed in Nagpore is the inspection of Village Schools in the interior. A preliminary examination has been made, and the Village Schoolmasters are found to be of the lowest grade. As it is a great object to work with the instruments we find, it is intended that all of these men, who are able to learn, shall undergo a course of training. With this view a Normal School for Schoolmasters had been opened at Nagpore, and already numbers 30 Scholars. Arrangements for similar Schools are being made at the Head Quarters of every District. The Schools known as Zillah and Tehseelee Schools (that is first class at the principal station of the District, and second class Schools in each Sub-division) will be opened for all the Districts as soon as the new Teachers arrive. But it is not proposed at present to establish Zillah Schools either at Nagpore, Jubbulpore, or Chindwarra, as the ground is already occupied by the Mission Schools which furnish excellent secular instruction. Grants-in-aid, according to the Rules, have been applied for in all these cases.

Grants-in-aid.

242. With the grant-in-aid, the Missionaries at Nagpore may be able to maintain a class with a high curriculum of English and Oriental learning. If such a class should fill, no Government class of the kind would be required. If it should not fill, then it will be desirable to establish, through the Educational Department, a class of this character for a limited number of Scholars.

243. It has been already mentioned that no where in these Provinces had the One Per Cent Fund (leviable from the landholders at that rate upon the land revenue for the support of Village Schools) been levied, doubtless owing to the incomplete state of the settlement of the land revenue. Arrangements have been made to obviate that difficulty by making allowance at the new settlement for what may now be collected. The cess will be levied together with the revenue instalment in December next. By that time the Village Schools can be brought under improved discipline. It is proposed that, in accordance with the system which has proved successful in the Punjab, the Village and Tehseelee Schools should be placed under the administrative management of the District Officer (Deputy Commissioner,) and should be open to the inspection of the Educational Authorities. This arrangement will be preferable to placing these rural Schools under the administration of the Educational Department itself. But to aid in this management, a trained Native Official from the Educational Department will be placed at the disposal of each District Officer.

One Per Cent Fund for Village Schools.

244. A Mission School, belonging to the Madras Wesleyan Mission, is about to be established at Seroncha, on the banks of the Godavery.

245. The language to be used in the Educatiqnal Department will be the Oordoo and Hindee for the Northern Circle, and also for the Chutteesghur Division in the Southern Circle; these being the prevailing languages in those parts. For School books generally, indents will be made upon the Depôts of the North-West Provinces. But in the Nagpore Division of the Southern Circle including the Districts of *Nagpore, Bhundara, Chanda,* and *Nuchenyaon,* the language to be used will be the Mahratta; and School books will be obtained from Bombay. The Officials employed in these Districts, European and Native, will be versed in Mahratta.

Use of the Mahratta language.

246. Although Mahratta continues to be the popular language, it is yet but little cultivated among the upper classes. No compositions in it are issued here; and, as already stated, but few persons, well read in it, are to be found in these parts. These circumstances, which are very much to be regretted, have arisen partly from the inevitable consequences of a change of Dynasty and Rule; partly from the fact that no Schools were founded after annexation; and partly because for many years, even before the establishment of British rule, employés from Hindoostan have been introduced in several branches of the service, and a number of Hindoostanees have settled here in the various trades and professions. These Hindoostanees, from their superior ability, have always beaten the Mahrattas in the race for power, influence, and fortune. From this cause, the depression and inferiority of the Mahrattas increased in a progressive ratio; while, from the absence of Schools and of State Education, they had not the same means and opportunities as were enjoyed by the other parts of India, of acquiring instruction, and of educating and qualifying themselves and their children. It may be hoped that the Educational measures now to be devised

Causes of its disuse in Nagpore.

will contribute to restore the equilibrium, and to afford the Mahrattas a chance of competing with educated foreigners.

School for Europeans and Eurasians at Sectabuldee.

247. But in these Provinces generally, and in the Nagpore Province particularly, there are European and Eurasian as well as Native children in grievous need of the means and opportunities of Education. This want, indeed, is but too common all over India; but almost every part of India, except these Provinces, has either Schools at hand or Schools within reach. For instance, in Bengal, there are the Seminaries of Calcutta; in the North there are the excellent Institutions in the Himalayan climate. Bombay and Madras enjoy similar advantages. But the Central Provinces, in the heart of India, are, by their geographical position, absolutely cut off from all these advantages. Here the European and Eurasian residents cannot, except at a cost beyond their means, send their children to those distant Institutions; and they must, perforce, rely on such Educational resources as can be found on the spot. But there is no regular School for European or Eurasian children existing at Nagpore. There is a Sunday School kept up, most laudably, by the Missionaries, and an Ordnance School for the families of the Officials of the Arsenal. But these Institutions, however good in themselves, cannot supply the needs of the general community. It has, therefore, been proposed to establish a School for this purpose at Sectabuldee, the Civil Station of Nagpore, the building to be provided by the Committee which administers the extensive local funds of that District; and the accommodation to provide School room for 60 children, boys and girls, besides quarters for a Master and Mistress, and a small Orphanage to provide lodging for a limited number of destitute children. Private subscriptions to a considerable amount have been raised, and assistance from the Government has been solicited.

CHAPTER V.—PUBLIC WORKS

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

248. There are no military buildings of importance in these Provinces. No spacious and lofty European barracks have been constructed on the plan which has of late years been adopted in the Stations of Northern India.

The Kamptee Cantonment.

249. At Kamptee the military cantonment of Nagpore, the European barracks for Artillery and Infantry were constructed, many years ago, on a permanent style which would then have been considered good. They are still sufficiently commodious, though quite inferior to the fine barracks which are built now-a-days. Formerly the quarters for the married soldiers were arranged on what is termed the "Parchcery system," according to which the married soldier receives a small allowance and builds a cottage for himself. The cottages, however, gradually fell into disrepair till they became scarcely habitable. Recently quarters have been, or are being built by Government, on an approved plan, for the usual proportion of married soldiers.

Jubbulpore Cantonment

250. At Jubbulpore there did not exist before 1857 any European Infantry barracks. Since that time barracks of an inferior and temporary character have been constructed for a whole Regiment. But the site is bad, being situate between two swamps. Of these the swamp nearest the barracks was recently ordered to be drained. A new hospital has recently been erected.

Saugor Cantonment.

251. At Saugor also, before 1857, there were no barracks for European Infantry. Since that time the European Artillery have been accommodated in a large School-house, and a part of the Infantry in some bombproof buildings. For the remainder of the Infantry, temporary barracks of an inferior character have been constructed.

Nowgong and Nagode.

252. At the cantonments of Nowgong and Nagode (Bundlecund) temporary barracks have been constructed for the detachments of European Artillery and Infantry stationed there.

Chindwarra.

253. At Chindwarra in the Sautpoora Hills, about seventy miles distant from Nagpore, there have been constructed temporary barracks for a detachment of European soldiers. As this Station is, from its elevation, much superior to Nagpore in climate, it is desirable to maintain a detachment there of convalescents or others until a better sanatarium shall be provided.

254. There are two forts maintained by Government in these Provinces, one at Saugor and one at Nagpore. Besides these there are no other defensible posts. There are not now any native forts whatever remaining.

The Saugor Fort.

255. The Saugor Fort was constructed under Mahratta Rule. During the troubles of 1857 it gave shelter to the European residents. It is situated on the borders of the lake, and adjoins the city. It has no pretensions as a fortified building. Within it are now kept the Depôt for medical stores, and the Ordnance Depôt for stores and munitions.

The Seetabuldee Fort.

256. The Nagpore Fort is on the small hill of Seetabuldee which immediately overlooks the lake and city of Nagpore on the one side, and the large Civil Station on the other. It is a place of some historical interest, having been the scene of the battles which arose out of the defection of Appa Sahib. Under its protection also is situated the Seetabuldee Arsenal. After 1817 the hill was fortified under British superintendence. The fortifications are of the slightest character, and hardly worthy of the name. But in the eyes of the people of the City and District of Nagpore, the prestige of this small ill-fortified hill is overwhelming. It is garrisoned by a detachment of European Artillery and Infantry.

The Seetabuldee Arsenal.

257. The arsenal is one of the second class and in good condition. It was built in 1820, and contains vast quantities of stores, the accumulation of many years. But for reasons mentioned in the

military chapter, its abandonment is recommended. At the same time it is proposed to construct an Ordnance Depôt in the cantonment of Kamptee.

258. As yet there are no depôts for convalescent soldiers and no Sanataria for European troops within these Provinces. But it has been proposed to establish a Sanatarium at Mohtoor, a point in the Sautpoora Range, about forty miles from the Station of Chindwarra. The place was examined in May 1860 by a Committee of Officers, Medical and Military, and was pronounced to be suited, in respect to climate, situation, and scenery, for the renovation of European health and strength during the hot months. I myself accompanied by several Officers, visited the place during May last. I believe that the Report of the Committee is perfectly accurate, and that the hill and plateau are fitted for the construction of a Military Convalescent Depôt and for the construction of a sanatarium. The height above the sea is 4,000 feet. The neighbouring hills and valleys are clothed with low and thick wood. And this circumstance is calculated to injuriously affect the climate during the rainy months and the autumn. But during the winter, spring and early summer, or more than half the year, the climate is delightful. The plateau of the hill itself is open and generally free from jungle. The soil and water are everything that could be desired. On the northern aspect the scenery is fine. In the hot months the atmosphere is cool and invigorating, and the sun is not overpowering. That the climate generally would be beneficial to the European constitution from December to July is beyond doubt. Whether it would be equally good from July to November, or whether fever would not, during these months, be prevalent, remains to be solved by experience.

The Mohtoor Sanatarium.

259. During the present season a Company of Sappers and Miners, and a party of prisoners have been employed in clearing the ground and improving the approaches to the hills. Temporary accommodation has been constructed at a trifling cost for three Officers, a Medical Officer, an Engineer Officer, and an Officer commanding the Sappers; also for two European Overseers. The above party, European and Native, are to remain on the hill during the rains and autumn if possible, or as long as may be considered safe by the Medical Officer. It is hoped that thus complete observations will be taken, and that reliable experience will be gained as to the climate and character of the place during the doubtful months.

Present arrangements.

260. It has been recommended that, under any circumstances, a barrack to accommodate (25) twenty-five or thirty European soldiers be constructed at Mohtoor during the next working season at a cost of about Rupees 20,000.

Future plans.

Too great expectations, however, should not be formed regarding Mohtoor. Its altitude 4,000 feet above the sea, is less than two-thirds of that of the various Himalaya Sanataria and of the Neilgherry Sanatarium. And it can never, at the best, approach the excellence of those. Again, though itself tolerably free from jungle, it has hills

and valleys in its neighbourhood thickly clothed with low forest and brushwood. Now it is known that above a certain altitude, apparently about 6,000 feet, jungle does not produce fever; whereas below a certain altitude it certainly does. In the lower ranges of hills fever is generally even more prevalent than in the plains. Therefore, there is apprehension that during a certain season (the rainy months and the autumn, July to December,) Mohtoor would not be more healthy than the plains, and might perhaps prove less so. But this consideration does not invalidate its undoubted advantages during the remainder of the year.

Centrical situation of Mohtoor.

261. In a general point of view the position of Mohtoor is remarkably centrical and convenient. It stands almost upon the very centre of the Central Provinces. Being situate on the southern face of the Sautpoora Range it is more convehient to Nagpore than to Saugor and Jubbulpore, but it is more or less convenient to all. On the north it will be distant forty miles from the nearest Railway Station of the northern line, and on the south 90 miles distant from the nearest station on the southern line. It will be comparatively within reach of no less than ten stations, Civil and Military, as follows:—

	Miles.
Mohtoor to Nagpore	90
Chindwarra	36
Chanda	187
Bhundara	102
Seonee	65
Baitool	48
Nursingpore	64
Jubbulpore	107
Saugor	113
Hoshungabad	63

262. A sketch Map is appended to illustrate the situation of the place.

Expenditure on Military Works.

263. It will have been seen then, that the expenditure on Military Works has been, and is proposed to be, small. The figures are given below. The works and buildings generally, though no where good and generally defective, are still sufficient to carry on the service of the year:—

	Rupees.
Expenditure in 1861-62	91,958
Proposed for 1862-63	1,29,069

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

264. In respect to Civil buildings much remains to be done in the Northern Districts, and still more in the Districts of the late Nagpore Province.

265. The defective and often inefficient character of the Jail buildings has been described in the chapter on Prison Discipline. There has been no progress during the past years. During the next season it is intended to commence the construction of a Central Jail at Nagpore.

Police Buildings.

266. There are as yet no Police buildings worthy of the name anywhere in these Provinces. In most Districts, posts, stations, barracks, hospitals for the Police will ultimately have to be constructed; but it is not proposed to commence these during the next season.

Court house.

267. In the Districts of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories and of Sumbulpore, the Court houses are complete, with the exception of one which was proposed to be built for the Commissioner of Saugor. In the late Nagpore Province much progress has been made during the year in building Court houses at Bhundara, Chanda, and Nachengaon. These completed, there will only remain the Court houses of Belaspore and Seroncha to be built. The new Court house for the Judicial Commissioner has been completed, and the Office of Commissioner of Nagpore has been accommodated in the building belonging to the late Nagpore Irregular Force. But at Nagpore the Offices for all Head Quarter Departments, such as Chief Engineer, Inspector of Schools, Inspector of Jails, Auditor and Accountant, and the like, have yet to be commenced. It is not, however, proposed to commence during the next working season.

Staging Bungalows.

268. Staging bungalows, at intervals of from 25 to 40 miles on most of the main roads, have been built for the most part. It must be acknowledged, that these bungalows, so essential to the comfort, and even safety of travellers in these remote and scattered districts, are, for the most part, in a highly unsatisfactory condition. Stringent orders have now been issued, and it is hoped that in the course of two or three months the defects will be remedied. But besides this, on many lines of road, there are no bungalows at all, so that in some places it is not possible to move Officers from one station to the other during the rains for want of shelter on the way. It is proposed to construct five or six new bungalows during the next season. And as the Road Overseer's bungalows lately sanctioned, at intervals of from ten to thirty miles, shall be completed, they will serve hereafter as travellers' resting places.

Encamping grounds.

269. Encamping grounds, with supply depôts for troops on the march, with caravanserais for the accommodation of travellers, were ordered in the Nagpore Province sometime ago; but as yet they are far from complete. No supply depôts like those which exist in the North-Western Provinces have been established, and there is not any caravanserai worthy of the name. The serais in and about Nagpore are indeed notoriously defective, but steps have now been taken to set them in order. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories some few encamping grounds have been marked out, and some few caravanserais exist. Plans and estimates will

Caravanserais.

be now framed for caravanserais at the most important points, some to be executed by the Department Public Works, and some by the Civil Authorities.

Revenue Offices.

270. Tehseel or Revenue Offices in the interior of the Districts have been constructed, on an approved plan, in some of the Districts of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. With the exception of one in the City of Nagpore, lately finished, none have been built in the Nagpore Provinces. These Offices are, however, sufficiently well accommodated in old native buildings.

271. The sums expended during the past two years on Civil buildings, and that proposed to be expended during the next year, are noted below :—

	Rupees.
In 1860-61	59,413
In 1861-62	61,893
For 1862-63 (proposed)	2,06,804

272. It is to be remarked that a moderate expenditure should, for the present, be made to suffice for purely Civil expenditure, so that more funds may be available to be devoted to those great works of communication and irrigation on which the future wealth and progress of the country will depend.

SECTION III.—COMMUNICATIONS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES.

Summary of the principal lines of Road.

273. The next heading in the Public Works Department is that of *Communications*, under which falls first the subject of roads. Now of all the matters under the cognizance of this Administration *road-making* is the most ultimately important, the most immediately pressing, and yet the most backward. Of roads completely made there is not one. The various roads, main and branch, either in progess or projected, or proposed, are numerous, and spread like a network over the country. Of all these, however, there are three trunk lines on which attention should be concentrated. These three roads should be considered as starting from Nagpore, the capital and centre of these Provinces, and may be called,—1st The Great Northern ; 2nd The Southern ; 3rd The Great Eastern. There is a fourth line, which, if not a trunk line, is yet one of the greatest local importance, namely, the line down the valley of the Wurda.

The Great Northern.

274. The Great Northern runs from Nagpore to the Khutra Pass near Mirzapore, a distance of 350 miles. It originally formed part of the Grand Deccan Road, projected many years ago to run from Mirzapore *viâ* Jubbulpore and Nagpore, through the Nizam's dominions to Ahmednugger, and thence to Bombay. The progress in the Railway from Bombay, through Berar to Nagpore, has, however, entirely altered the condition of the road below Nagpore. From Nagpore to Bombay the future communication will certainly be by

Railway. But the road retains its importance from Mirzapore to Nagpore. In a military, political, and general point of view this road is of primary importance; in a commercial point of view it is of secondary importance. At present quantities of produce, cotton and otter, pass to and fro between Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Mirzapore. But when the Railways shall be open, one from Bombay to Jubbulpore, and one from Bombay to Nagpore, then this traffic will be diverted to Bombay. These Railways will be open probably before the Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore, that line will then absorb a part of the traffic. These considerations certainly diminish the importance of the road from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore. But the section from Jubbulpore to Nagpore will always be of the utmost consequence, as directly connecting the two points of Nagpore and Jubbulpore, and bringing the Districts intervening between them into communication with the two Railway Termini. These Districts, lying within the Hills of the Sautpoora Range and its branches, will never be traversed by a Railway. In the mean time, until the Railways are opened, this road connects Nagpore with the North-Western Provinces and Bengal, and is the line of postal communication with Calcutta.

Its objects and purposes.

275. From Mirzapore to Jubbulpore the roadway and the metalling (235 miles) were completed in 1852-53. But the bridging for the most part remains undone. During the past season 5 bridges were undertaken. There remain 32 bridges to be executed. These are to be proceeded with during next working season. The sums already expended on this section cannot be stated, as much of the work was executed so long ago; but the sums required to complete amount to Rupees 3,60,000. At present Mail Carts run along this road during the winter and summer, but not during the rainy season, by reason of the unbridged streams filling with water. It is hoped, however, by completing some of the bridges, by erecting temporary bridges at some points, and by such like arrangement, a horse transit for wheeled carriages may be established to the great convenience of European travellers. Of the section between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, 45 miles, about half the distance (from Jubbulpore to Seonee) has been nearly completed through the vigorous operations of the past season. In the remainder, from Seonee to Nagpore, comparatively little has yet been done. Two-thirds of this section will be arduous, running right athwart the Sautpoora Range. The remaining one-third crosses the champaign country of Nagpore. On this section Rupees 1,39,000 have been already expended, and Rupees 8,00,000 are required to complete; with great exertions during the next working season, it might be possible to open the line to Nagpore for traffic.

Section from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore.

From Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

276. The southern line will extend from Nagpore to Chanda, a distance of 95 miles. It will have two subsidiary branches—one to Nachenguon on the Wurda, at the point where the Railway strikes the river; another from Jam, near Hingun Ghat, to a point where the road from Nagpore to Hyderabad also strikes the River Wurda. The main line runs from

The Southern Line.

Nagpore southwards through the very heart of the Cotton Districts to Chanda, near the point where the navigation of the Upper Godavery may be said to commence. During a portion of its course it subserves the military and political purposes of communication with Hyderabad. Its real and general importance, however, is commercial.

Its objects and purposes.

One of the great outlets, one of the great highways, which nature has provided for the Nagpore Province is the Godavery River. Now it is this southern road which connects the capital and the richest parts of the Province with the head of the navigation of the Upper Godavery. About midway on the line stands Hingun Ghat next after Oomracotee, the best known cotton mart in Central India. It traverses the southern half of the tract described as the cotton field of Nagpore. It connects Hingun Ghat, in the north, with Nagpore, or with the nearest Railway stations; in the south, with Chanda. So that whether the future cotton crop of Nagpore shall go to Mirzapore and Calcutta, or to Bombay by Railway, or to the eastern coast by the Godavery, in each and all of these cases will this road prove of the utmost utility. A part was commenced some time ago, but the main portion was proceeded with last season. The earthwork is nearly complete. With great exertions the greater number of the bridges could be executed during next working season and the road opened for traffic. During the following season the metalling might be added. The sum already expended amounts to Rupees 74,000, that required to complete to Rupees 5,26,000.

Its present state.

277. The Great Eastern Line is incomparably the most important public work (Railway excepted) in these Provinces. It runs from Nagpore to Raepore and past Sumbulpore to the Frontier of Cuttack. It has a branch breaking off from Sohela near Sumbulpore to join the Mahanuddy at Binka near Sonepoor. The total distance, main line and branch, amounts to 244 miles. From the Cuttack Frontier the road is nearly finished to the sea. From Binka the Mahanuddy is sufficiently navigable all the year round. The road has some political and military importance. Disturbances have occurred, and may again occur, on the Raepore and Sumbulpore Frontier, and the force for repression would have to be sent from the Nagpore side. In this point of view, then, it is of importance that the capital should be connected with this important Frontier.

The Great Eastern Line.

Its commercial importance.

But the real importance of the road is *commercial*. As the southern line connects Nagpore itself with the Godavery, so this eastern line connects the most promising part of the Province with the other great natural outlet and highway, namely, the Mahanuddy River. Its early completion would at once supply a vast stimulus to agricultural production, and cause a perceptible enhancement of the wealth of the country. It traverses from end to end the two richest, largest and best cultivated champaign tracts in all the Central Provinces, namely the Valley of the Wyngunga, and the plateau of Chutteesghur. The grain, the oil seeds, the pulses and some cotton will go by the Valley of the Mahanuddy to the eastern coast. But also there is hope that the cotton already produced in Chutteesghur may be so increased, that a new cotton field of great extent will be created, and its produce

exported by the Mahanuddy, and it is this great commerce which the eastern road is directly to subserve.

The Plateau of Chutteesghur.

278. The Valley of the Wyngunga is broad and rich, but the plateau of Chutteesghur is the finest in the whole country. From the vicinity of hills and forests all round, the rains are so regular, that artificial irrigation even for the spring crops is unnecessary and unknown; so good and moist is the soil, that even sugar-cane can be raised without irrigation. For miles and miles, further than the eye can reach, there is in autumn a waving harvest of rice, and in spring of wheat. The cultivated and culturable area of the plateau cannot be less than 20,000 square miles. But the plain, so propitiously endowed by nature is after all an oasis in that isolated region. On the north and east there are the savage hills of Mundla and of the Gurjat; on the west the rugged district that skirts the left bank of the Wyngunga; on the south that interminable length of forest and hill that stretches down to the Indrawutty. Thus, on all sides, it is cut off from civilization, and from trade. The effect is but too apparent. So superabundant is the produce beyond the demand of consumption on the spot, that prices of grain are three times as cheap in Chutteesghur as elsewhere. And the consequence of excessive cheapness of food is manifest in the indolent, improvident, and slavish character of the people; and this backwardness, this stagnation, entirely arises from the want of communication. Let there be a road open to the west, or to the east, and this teeming produce, multiplying yearly, will find its way to the sea-ports of the eastern coast. Here again nature, in other respects so bountiful, has offered one great advantage, which, with a little artificial help, may be made available for Chutteesghur. Within a hundred and fifty miles is the navigable head of the Mahanuddy near Sonepore. To that point the produce could be carried on carts, and shipped on board the boats, whence transit to the coast would be comparatively easy. If then only a road of 150 miles be constructed, this great advantage would be secured. It is difficult to foresee the extent to which the prosperity of Chutteesghur would increase under these conditions. Nor is this the only advantage, for the Valley of the Mahanuddy itself in the Sumbulpore direction has great resources in cotton, rice, and wheat, and even indigo.

Its natural advantages.

To be connected by Road with the navigable head of the Mahanuddy.

279. At its opposite extremity, the road running through the Valley of the Wyngunga, connects that broad and fertile tract with the capital and with the Railway terminus.

280. Under Mahratta rule, the line from Nagpore to Sumbulpore was constructed in very fair style under European superintendence. It formed part of the postal line from Calcutta to Bombay; afterwards the Mirzapore route was preferred for the Mails, and the road was abandoned under British rule. The roadway was allowed to fall into disrepair, but the bridges, for the most part, have stood. They are at present useless, as the traffic has deserted the ruined road. Many of them will now be available for the new road.

Disrepair of the old Road.

281. Of this new road, then, the bridging and earthwork and part of the metalling have been completed from Nagpore to Bhundarra on the Wyngunga, a distance of 40 miles. The greater part of this work was executed during the last season. Some little work has been done, and some more planned, in the rough and barren country beyond the Wyngunga. But in the Chutteesghur plateau and onwards, towards Sumbulpore, nothing has yet been done. It is proposed to expend 3,03,000 Rupees during the next season on the section between Raepore (Chutteesghur) and the Mahanuddy; and by a vigorous effort a large part of the line might be opened. It is impossible to urge too strongly the desirability of pressing on this line with energy. During the last season some progress was made. But even at that rate it would be five years before the road to Sumbulpore could be opened. If, however, an adequate effort were made, it might be possible to open the most important section within a year, or within two years at the longest. The amount already expended amounts to Rupees 47,000; that required to complete, approximately, five lakhs.

Progress with the new Road.

Its future prospects.

282. The *fourth* line is the cotton road down the Valley of the Wurda. It commences at Tulligaum, below the point where the Wurda debouches from the Sautpoora hills, and running southwards down the Valley through the cotton country, and passing by the mart of Arvee, touches the Wurda itself at (Natchengaon), where the river is to be crossed by the Railway from Nagpore to Oomra tee. Thence it will proceed in a south easterly direction, traversing the very heart of the cotton country, and passing by the mart of Deolee, will meet the great southern road at Hingun Ghat, the principal cotton mart in the country. The total distance will be 65 miles. The importance of this road, which will connect all the principal villages which grow, and the marts which collect, cotton with the Railway, is too obvious to need further mention. For this line a lakh of Rupees was sanctioned during the last working season, of which only Rupees 5,164 have been expended: the portion of the line opened during that season was trifling, which, considering the importance of the road and the opportunity afforded, is to be regretted. The line should be a second class one, bridged and metalled, and at the probable rate of 5,000 Rupees a mile will cost 2¾ lakhs of Rupees.

The Cotton Road of the Wurda Valley.

Its objects and purposes.

No progress yet made.

283. Such, then, are the four roads, on the early and effective opening of which the future prosperity of the country so much depends, and upon which our efforts should primarily be concentrated.

284. There are two other roads which are of great importance, and which might be partially opened at a moderate expense, without diverting resources from the four great lines already mentioned. These are the Raepore and Jubbulpore Road, and the Raepore and Seroncha Road.

285. The Raepore and Jubbulpore Road runs from Raepore, across the Chutteesghur plateau, to the Rajadhar or Chilpee Pass in the Sautpoora Range. Then surmounting, by that Pass, the crest

The Raepore and Jubbulpore Road.

of the Range, it passes through the fine uplands and valleys down to Mundla on the Nerbudda, and thence to Jubbulpore. It seems certain that if this road were only open for country carts, much of the produce of Chutteesghur would find its way northwards to Jubbulpore. In the same manner the Mundla District will be opened, and an immediate impulse will be given to agriculture and trade in that district. Every one who sees that district is struck with its capabilities; it probably offers the fairest field, within these Provinces, for European colonization; and it possesses great resources in timber. It has, hitherto, deteriorated, rather than improved, under British rule; and the first step for its improvement, is, on all hands, admitted to be the opening of this road. Some money has been expended, but ineffectually; for bridges are to be seen without superstructure, and passes only half opened. It would not be possible to regularly construct this road during the next season. But by patch-work here and there, by removing boulders and stones, by making some crooked paths straight, and some rough places smooth, the line might be rendered just passable for carts, which would be a great point gained, and for this a moderate grant and a small Establishment would suffice.

Its objects and purposes.

286. The road from Raepore to Seroncha will run right through the great wilderness, in the centre of the Nagpore Province, to the banks of the Godavery. It will enable the produce of Chutteesghur to find its way to a point below the third barrier of that river, whence the navigation to the sea may be rendered practicable for several months in the year. The distance is about 240 miles from Raepore to Seroncha. It is not contemplated to regularly make this road. But there is already a track formed by the long strings of pack bullocks belonging to the Brinjarrah carriers, which maintain a traffic between Chutteesghur and Masulipatam. It is proposed to improve this track so as to make it just passable for carts by cutting down forest and removing logs and stones. For this a small expenditure would suffice, to be laid out under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner of Seroncha.

Raepore and Seroncha Road.

287. These, then, are the several roads to which, as it appears to me, labor and money should be devoted during the next season. It being important to concentrate effort, *six* lines only are placed in this category, four primary and two secondary.

Roads of primary and secondary importance.

In the first category are—

(I.)—The Great Northern.
(II.)—The Southern.
(III.)—The Great Eastern.
(IV.)—The Wurda Valley Cotton Road.

In the second category are—

(I.)—The Raepore and Jubbulpore Road.
(II.)—The Raepore and Seroncha Road.

288. They are all of the most urgent necessity, and the development of the country is seriously retarded for want of them. Yet, excepting one section, not one of these roads is in any wise open, or near being open. The object is not to swell Returns by exhibiting work which will not immediately benefit traffic; such as miles of earthwork without bridges, or bridges without approaches, but to render the line passable for wheeled carriage as soon as possible. To do this is practically to *open* the line.

289. Many other useful roads have been projected, to which, however, it will be impossible to devote any attention at present.

Minor Roads.

290. Such are the Chindwarra Road, which will lead from Nagpore to the proposed sanatarium of Matheor. This road, though not made, or complete, is more or less open; and some excellent work has been done in the pass leading up from the plains to the hills. The expenditure on that road has amounted to Rupees 3,500. The line from Nagpore to Saugor, *viâ* Baitool and Hoshungabad, has been partially made at different times; it will be valuable for trade and general communication. The road from Jubbulpore, *viâ* Dumoh, to Saugor, and thence to Malthone on the Chandeyree Frontier, will be useful for Military purposes. The road from Dumoh to Nagode, through Bundlecund, will possess much local usefulness in a Military, Political, and Commercial point of view. These roads are mentioned because they are really wanted, and ought some day to be made. But it would be idle to urge their claims at this moment, in the presence of the great works unfinished, or uncommenced, on the four main lines just mentioned.

State expenditure on roads.

291. It may now be interesting to note the sums which have been expended on roads and establishments in the Nagpore Province (*vide* Table A) since annexation, and in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories during the same period. The aggregate of expenditure on roads was not great until the past working season, when real progress was made between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, between Nagpore and Bhundurra, and between Nagpore and Chanda. But as yet not more than 18 miles (an insignificant distance) has been fully opened.

TABLE A.

	1855-56.	1856-57.	1857-58.	1858-59.	1859-60.	1860-61.	1861-62.	TOTAL.
NAGPORE PROVINCE.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Communications ...	.....	67,056 5 7	1,23,302 14 3	14,252 7 0	36,236 3 9	52,389 1 9	2,73,596 0 0	5,67,343 0 4
Establishment ...	17,021 12 4	67,089 14 0	81,318 5 7	74,499 9 9	1,17,039 0 10	1,48,847 10 4	1,99,908 0 0	7,05,743 10 10
Budget Grant ...	No	Budget.	No	Budget.	No allotment.	6,00,000 0 0	9,75,000 0 0	.....
SAUGOR CIRCLE.								
Communications ...	1,52,359 0 0	1,32,352 0 0	65,055 0 0	28,495 0 0	34,479 0 0	84,707 0 0	2,19,386 0 0	7,16,832 0 0
Establishment ...	44,898 0 0	79,447 0 0	53,071 0 0	22,588 0 0	58,552 0 0	57,901 0 0	86,282 0 0	4,03,339 0 0
Budget Grant ...	No	Budget.	No	Budget.	.....	4,70,000 0 0	5,23,000 0 0	.....

SECTION IV.

Railways and Tramways.

292. The accompanying Sketch Map will indicate the Railways projected or in progress, and the Tramways which have been suggested. The former being marked in black lines, and the latter in yellow. Those sections of the Tramway lines which appear to me, as at present informed, preferable for commencement, are marked in red lines on the Map.

The Nerbudda Valley Railroad.

293. There are three lines of Railway projected, or in progress, within these Provinces; of these two lines belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, which has its Indian head quarters in Bombay. From Bombay the main line, running northward, surmounts the Range of the Western Ghats at the celebrated ascent known as the "Thul" Ghat. Thence, passing in a north-easterly direction into the great Valley of Kandesh, it bifurcates at a place called Bosawal. From this bifurcation, one branch runs still more north-eastward, till it strikes the Valley of the Nerbudda in the Hoshungabad District. Then, running along the southern or left bank of the river crosses it at Jubbulpore, and has its terminus near that city. The other branch, breaking off in an easterly direction, runs through the Valley of Berar, and crossing the Wurda River enters the Nagpore Province, and running up to the city of Nagpore, has its terminus there.

The Berar and Nagpore Railroad.

The Jubbulpore and Mirzapore Railroad.

294. The third line is a branch of that great Railway which runs from Calcutta to Delhi and belongs to the East India Railway Company. It passes from Jubbulpore northwards, following nearly the same direction as the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore road, till it approaches Rewah, and then proceeds upwards to Allahabad.

Total mileage of Railway within the Central Provinces.

295. The total mileage of Railway, as thus described within these Provinces, will be as below:—

Nerbudda Valley Line	... 190	miles.
Nagpore line	... 65	„
Jubbulpore Northern Line	... 110	„
Total	365	miles.

296. Of these the Nagpore Line has been partially advanced. The Nerbudda Valley Line was commenced during last working season. The Jubbulpore Northern Line has been surveyed, and is reported to be commenced next season. The difficulties in the Nagpore Line and in the Jubbulpore Northern Line will not be great. But in the Nerbudda Valley there are the Nerbudda itself, and the Shere River and several other large streams to be bridged. The Railway to Nagpore is expected to be open in two years. The Nerbudda Valley Line, perhaps, not for four years. For the opening of the Jubbulpore Northern Line no period has yet been mentioned. The sites for the termini and the principal stations in these lines of Railway

have been fixed. The advantages of these lines of Railway are so great and obvious that it were superfluous even to recapitulate them in this report. Suffice it to say that with these Railways most of the disadvantages, arising out of the isolated and inland position of these Provinces, will be obviated. There will, then, be complete communication both with Calcutta and Bombay. The Northern Line, joining at Jubbulpore with the South-western Line, will form an integral section of that great line which connects Calcutta with Bombay. The Nagpore Line will afford the best communication from Nagpore and the cotton districts to the western coast.

Peculiar advantages of Railways in the Central Provinces.

297. In connection with Railways, the subject of Tramways in Central Provinces may be briefly touched upon. To what extent Tramways could be constructed in these provinces, and how far they would prove remunerative are difficult questions, which, in the present deficiency of agricultural and commercial statistics, I cannot adequately answer. It seems clear, however, that the localities for such works must be selected for special and local reasons. The Tramway apparently must be constructed so as to attract particular kinds of traffic from marts and depôts to certain points, such as Railway Stations. It by no means follows that a line which, irrespectively of all physical difficulty, is commercially suitable for a road will be equally so for a Tramway; country carts of various kinds can struggle over a rough country till they find a road where their passage becomes easy. But these carts, generally, could not be placed upon a Tramway, as the guage would not fit them. If, then, the merchandize is to go by Tramway, there must be the breaking of bulk, and the transferring of it from cart to truck; and this, though by no means an insuperable difficulty, is notoriously deemed objectionable by native traders.

Selection of localities for Tramways.

298. Still there is good hope that localities will be found suitable for the construction of Tramways. For instance, Hingun Ghat, the cotton mart, will be distant 30 miles from the Railways. In that interval of distance, a Tramway might succeed, and there would be no special difficulty in the ground to be traversed. If a commencement were made here, the Tramway might be continued down the Valley of the Wurda to Wurrora and Chanda. Such a Tramway, then, would be on the southern side of the Railway. Similarly on the northern side, from the cotton mart of Arvee, a Tramway might be constructed down the Valley of the Wurda to meet the Railway at Nachengaon, where the line crosses the Wurda. Such lines of Tramway, in the Wurda Valley, would have an aggregate length of nearly 100 miles, and would run the whole way through a rich and cultivated country growing cotton principally and also wheat, millet and oil-seed. For the greater part of this distance a Tramway would run parallel with roads, now under construction, on levels quite suitable to the former. A portion of the road could easily be given to the Tramway, and thus the expense of the latter would be considerably diminished.

Tramways in the Cotton Districts of the Wurda Valley.

Tramway to the navigable head of the Mahanuddy River.

290. The next line that would naturally suggest itself for a Tramway is the Great Eastern Road which runs from Nagpore to Sumbulpore and the Mahanuddy. The commercial advantages of this line have been stated in the chapter on Roads. Whether the traffic will be sufficient to render a Tramway remunerative is the question. The distance, 360 miles, would be considerable for a Tramway; and for more than fifty miles between Nagpore and Raepore, that is from the Wyngunga to the Bagh Nuddee, the country is rough and desolate. Again between the Jonk Nuddee, east of Raepore, and the Mahanuddy, some rugged ground would be met with. On the whole it seems to me probable that, at first, a Tramway on this line would not be fully remunerative, though it would become so ultimately. If a Tramway were thought of at all, a commencement should be made from Raepore eastward to the navigable head of the Mahanuddy. Throughout, the line a portion of the Roadway, now under construction, could be given up to the Tramway.

Tramway between Nagpore and Jubbulpore.

300. The third line would be that from Nagpore to Jubbulpore, connecting the two Capitals of these Provinces and the two Railway termini. Thus a triangle of communication would be formed, the two sides consisting of the Railways and the base of the Tramway. The country is, for the most part, difficult,—comprising a part of the Sautpoora Hills; and there is no chance of its being traversed by a Railway. But, as previously explained, a first class road is being constructed, and a portion of the roadway could be given up to the Tramway, so as to lessen the expense. This would appear to be a point of consequence, for otherwise a Tramway on this line would be very expensive. If the expense of construction should not prove excessive, then it is probable that, after the opening of the two Railways, this section of the Tramway would command a large amount of traffic.

301. It has been suggested to produce this Tramway onwards from Jubbulpore to Saugor, a distance of 60 miles. This would, no doubt, be very valuable in a Military point of view; but there would appear little chance of its being remunerative commercially.

Tramway from Nagpore to Kamptee.

302. It has been proposed to construct a short Tramway, ten miles long, between Nagpore and Kamptee. But there is a proposition also for extending the Railway from Nagpore to Kamptee. If this should not be done, then, no doubt, the Tramway could be easily constructed, and would probably prove remunerative.

Probable cost of Tramways per mile.

303. Of the cost of Tramways various estimates have been made; the lowest being 8,000 Rupees a mile, and the highest 30,000 Rupees. The former is certainly too low, and perhaps the higher might be reached; but if a portion of a well made roadway were made available, then some reduction below 30,000 would be made.

304. I have impressed on the Chief Engineer the propriety of arranging all the curves and levels on the main roads under construction, as much as practicable, with a view to their ultimate adaptation to Tramways.

SECTION V.

Canals.

305. Canals at present do not exist in these Provinces, nor is it yet known whether any such should be constructed. It is probable that some considerable Irrigation Works in the Valley of the Wurda would be successful, and I have recently caused a preliminary enquiry to be made. Some works in the Valley of the Godavery have been mentioned, but the paucity of population would probably preclude any undertaking of this kind. The subject of Tank Irrigation (a matter of great consequence in the Nagpore Province) has been mentioned in the chapter on Land Revenue.

Absence of Canals in the Central Provinces.

Possible Irrigation Works in the Valley of the Wurda.

SECTION VI.

Miscellaneous.

306. Under the heading of miscellaneous may be properly placed the works executed by local Committees from local funds. The Committees for the several districts have been named and gazetted, and their operations are duly conducted under rules prepared after the model of those which have worked so well in the Punjab. For the first time, a regular Budget of Income and Expenditure of the Local Funds throughout the Central Provinces has been just prepared and submitted to the Supreme Government.

Local Committees formed in the various Districts.

307. The Local Funds, then, consist of—

Various kinds of Local Funds.

I.—*Road Fund*, derived from a cess levied from the landholders at the rate of one per cent on the Land Tax.

II.—*Ferry Fund*, being the surplus of Ferry tolls, after defrayal of Ferry expenses.

III.—*Pound Fund*, being the surplus of fees levied on stray cattle impounded.

IV.—*Nuzool Fund*, being the income from houses and lands, the property of Government, and chiefly consisting of property which lapsed to the British Government from its predecessors.

V.—*Town Duties, Octroi*, the levying of which has been mentioned in the chapter on Revenue. It has been already explained in the chapter on Police that, from this fund the cost of the Police in towns and cities is defrayed; the balance or remainder being made available in local improvement. In this place, then, the *net* income (after defrayal of Police charges) will [illegible].

308. The income, then, from all these sources may be thus shown for the current year :—

Heads of Income.

Fund.	Balance from 1861-62.	Income of 1862-63.	Total.
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
Road Fund	1,42,433	62,570	2,05,003
Ferry Fund	28,482	15,163	43,645
Pound Fund	4,569	4,987	9,556
Nuzool Fund	6,532	705	7,237
Town Duties	1,15,761	2,48,777	3,64,538
Total ...	2,97,777	3,32,202	6,29,979

309. This Return exhibits a large balance accumulated at the close of 1861-62, and would seem to shew that the local authorities did not sufficiently avail themselves of the resources at their disposal for the improvement of the districts. The heavy accumulations of the Road Fund does indeed indicate that district roads were not opened with sufficient speed. For the current year 1862-63 I propose to lay out the large income available in promoting improvement, arranging only for such moderate balance at the close of the year as would suffice for immediate requirements. Accordingly, upon the total income thus shown, Rupees 6,29,979 or 6¼ lakhs, it is proposed to expend Rupees 6,07,067 within the current year 1862-63 ; leaving a balance, at the close, of Rupees 22,912.

Heads of Expenditure.

310. The heads of expenditure will be as follows :—

I.—District roads	...	Rupees 2,37,612
II.—Caravan Serais, Depôts and encamping grounds	...	„ 29,600
III.—Tanks	...	„ 22,690
IV.—Conservancy of Cities	...	„ 51,854
V.—Other local improvements... ...	...	„ 1,55,551
		4,97,307

Besides the above, the charges of town policemen and watchmen is provided for at Rupees 67,433 ; ferries at 12,298, and establishments at 30,029.

Principal District Roads.

311. Among the numerous district roads which are to be repaired or improved from the funds are, the Raepore and Jubbulpore road, the Raepore and Seroncha road, both of which important lines have been mentioned in the chapter on Roads. From the same source something will be done for the line connecting Saugor with Nagpore (mentioned in the section on Roads) for the direct road between Nagpore and Oomraotee the cotton mart of

Berar; and for the road connecting the upper Valley of the Wyngunga with the main road from Nagpore to Jubbulpore.

Caravan Serais.

312. The general want of caravan serais has been mentioned in the section on Civil Buildings. Some few of these useful buildings will be constructed within the year.

Tanks and reservoirs.

313. The principal tanks to be enlarged or improved during the next season are the splendid tank called the Jooma Talao in the Nagpore City, (one of the most important tanks in these Provinces); the several tanks constructed by the Mahratta Government in the neighbourhood of Nagpore for the supply of the city with water, by means of underground masonry pipes; the well known tank at Mooltye, at the source of the Taptee river; the tank at Seonee on the Nagpore and Jubbulpore road; and the tank at Chanda. They not only promote physical comfort, but also conduce in every way to the civilization and happiness of the people. The Saugor Lake, and the numerous beautiful tanks round Jubbulpore, are already in fair order. All these are distinct from the Irrigation tanks mentioned in several parts of this Report.

Conservancy in the cities of Saugor and Jubbulpore.

Improvements in the City of Nagpore.

314. In respect to conservancy, the cities Jubbulpore and Saugor have been well kept and improved. As regards the city of Nagpore, I am obliged to state that conservancy has not been maintained at all since British rule. The Mahratta Government did indeed construct some streets and drains, which have subsequently deteriorated to some extent. Some conservancy establishment for clearing the street drains were maintained, but these were not kept up after annexation. At the time the local officers were absorbed in other pressing duties, and there were no local funds available at first. Now, however, a considerable sum has accumulated since the introduction of town duties; conservancy establishments have been entertained, and the drains are being rapidly cleared. New streets also are being opened out, and market places established. Boulevards are to be formed all round the great tank. I have already mentioned, in the introductory chapter, that Nagpore is probably at present one of the most unsightly and ill kept cities in India. And, whatever efforts at renovation or restoration may be made, some little time must elapse before the city can present a fair appearance.

Public Gardens.

315. There is no space to specify the various works included under the head of "other improvements." But among them may be mentioned the beautiful gardens constructed by the Mahratta Government at various points in the vicinity of Nagpore. Since British rule these have fallen into disrepair or ruin. They are now being restored and converted into public gardens.

Conclusion.

316. This chapter may conclude with the abstract of the total Budget assignments from the imperial revenue for the different kinds of public works for the past and the current year.

	Military Buildings.	Civil.	Com. Roads.	Total.
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
1861-62	2,16,820	2,69,829	10,11,351	14,98,000
1862-63	3,04,446	3,12,207	11,33,347	17,50,000

Imperial expenditure on public works in the Central Provinces.

To the 17½ lakhs must be added 3½ lakhs from the one per cent Income Tax collection, and about 97,000 for the district of Sumbulpore, which will bring the total up to nearly 22 lakhs.

317. The aggregate of 1862-63, 22 lakhs, amounts to 25 per cent on the total income of these provinces. But it is to be remembered that, in previous years, the assignments have been very small, and especially so in the Nagpore Province. The proportion of the allotment for roads, upon the total, is very considerable, amounting to 11,33,347, and this is a satisfactory circumstance.

CHAPTER VI.

Post Office.

Postal Lines.

318. The Postal lines in these Provinces are sufficient. With one exception, they all depend on men as runners. On one line the Mail is carried by horses, namely that from Calcutta to Bombay, which within these provinces runs from near Mirzapore to the Wurda, passing through Jubbulpore and Nagpore. On the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore sections for eight months in the year Mail-carts are used; for the rest of the line the couriers carry wallets on horseback.

Horse Carriage.

319. It is most desirable to establish a horse carriage dawk for the convenience of European travellers between Mirzapore and Jubbulpore in the cold season, and as the bridges are advancing, this could be arranged during the next working season. It is doubtful whether there are enough European travellers on those roads yet to remunerate a private Company. But with the existing establishment of horses, the Post Office could provide carriages, as was formerly managed in the North-West Provinces. There are bullock vans at present, but they are very tedious for travelling. The Director General of the Post Office in India has been addressed on this subject.

Post Master General.

320. The Departmental supervision of the Post Offices in these Provinces is not satisfactorily arranged. The Post Offices of the Nagpore Province are under the supervision of the Post Master General of the Bombay Presidency; those of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories under the Post Master General of the North-Western Provinces. The control of such

distant authorities is quite nominal and useless. At Nagpore there is an Inspecting Post Master, but in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories there is no superior authority on the spot. If a Post Master Generalship for the Central Provinces were constituted, the measure would doubtless lead to the general improvement of Postal arrangements. By a re-adjustment of salaries, this might be arranged with little or no extra expense. The Director General of the Post Office in India has been addressed on this subject.

Police Postal Service.

321. The Thannah or Police Postal service is managed by District Officers in connection with the Postal Authorities, as in other Provinces. They are all conveyed by runners. In all the districts of the Central Provinces there are runners employed on these branch lines at a cost of Rupees 20,484 per annum charged to Civil Establishments. The income from the additional charge in letters delivered by the Establishment is credited to the Post Office Department; but the amount is almost nominal.

CHAPTER VII.

Electric Telegraph.

Telegraph Line.

322. The Electric Telegraph line in these Provinces runs from Mirzapore *viâ* Jubbulpore to Nagpore, and thence crossing the Wurda at Chanda, to Hyderabad onwards to Bombay. From the Wurda there passes a line down the right bank of the Godavery to Coconada. The wires within these Provinces are supported on frail and rotten posts—interruptions during the rainy season are constant; so that the existence of an Electric Telegraph for days together is neutralized. The entire line requires repair or renewal. The Director of Electric Telegraphs in India has been specially addressed on the subject.

323. There are two new lines much needed in these Provinces, namely a line from Calcutta *viâ* Sumbulpore and Raepore to Nagpore; and a branch line from Jubbulpore to Saugor.

Direct line to Calcutta.

324. The first would be the direct line from Calcutta to Bombay *viâ* Sumbulpore and Nagpore, following the old Postal roads. It would apparently be quite practicable. If its construction should be found conducive to the commercial interests of the two Presidency Towns, there is no doubt of the benefit that would arise to the administration of these provinces from the possession of means of immediate communication with its eastern districts and its eastern frontier. For Political and Military purposes also, a branch line from Jubbulpore to Saugor is greatly needed. In the event of any trouble, the want of Telegraphic communication with the principal Military Station in the northern districts would be much felt.

Line to Saugor.

CHAPTER VIII.

Marine—Navigation.

325. There is no regular Marine attached to these Provinces. The only vessels employed within the limits of this administration are the steamers on the Godavery.

As these belong to the Madras Marine, it is not necessary to enter into details regarding them; but as they are working within these territories, a brief mention of them may be included in this Report.

Steamers on the Godavery.

326. In June 1861 the Madras Government sanctioned a scheme of connected land and water communication from the sea to Hingum Ghat, by means of steamers and boats at the reaches and tramways round each of the three barriers, which present a series of obstacles to the navigation of the Godavery. This scheme had, for its immediate object, to open up a cheap and quick route from the heart of the cotton-growing districts of Nagpore to the sea-port of Coconada; to tap the general resources of the country; and to test whether, if the Godavery route were really opened, it would be taken advantage of to the extent predicted. The scheme involved no great outlay. It appeared to answer in some degree the existing emergency of the exportation of cotton. The steamers belonging to the Lower Godavery District were at once placed at the service of the District Engineer, Upper Godavery, and orders issued for the construction of the three Tramways.

327. From Dowlaishwaram (below the Ghats) where the river navigation commences to Budrachellum (100 miles) steamers now ply to and fro from July until October and November. One of these, the *Prince*, is capable of towing boats and conveys 100 tons a trip. From Budrachellum to Doomagoodium, now the head quarters of the Navigation Agency (sixteen miles) extends the first Barrier. The Tramway here has been partly constructed, but the Transit arrangements are completed, and arrangements have been made for the conveyance of 16 tons a day from Budrachellum, which is at the foot, to Doomagoodium, which is at the head, of this Barrier.

The first Barrier.

328. Above Doomagoodium there is uninterrupted communication during the flood season for a distance of 70 miles of river to Deodoola at the foot of the second Barrier. The Steamers *Arthur Cotton* and *Shamrock* ply in this reach; the former is only employed in the conveyance of goods; 42 tons can be conveyed each trip and one boat can be towed. The *Arthur Cotton* is only of about 60-horse power, and draws from 2½ to 3½ feet of water. The *Shamrock* is a smaller vessel.

The second Barrier.

329. From Deodoola, at the foot, to Palmilla at the head, of the second Barrier is a Tramway constructed to avoid the Barrier. It is about 20 miles in length, and a portion of it has been completed. Arrangements for the conveyance of goods over the remaining portion of it have been made. This Tramway lies altogether on the Nizam's side of the river. From Palmilla to Mooglee there is a clear stretch of river for 60 or 70 miles. Half way on the left bank is Seroncha, (the new station of a Deputy Commissioner) on the Godavery; where there is an Electric Telegraph Office, a Post Office, and a Medical Officer. The Steamers *Queen* and *Rose*, similar in all points, respectively, to the *Arthur Cotton* and *Shamrock*, ply on this reach of the river. Arriving at Mooglee, which is at the foot of the third, last and most formidable Barrier, goods are conveyed to Salgaon, at the head of it, a distance

The third Barrier.

of 84 miles by carts. Of the Tramway, twenty miles of the roadway only have been completed. All the larger water-courses have been bridged. From Salgaon the Steamer *Mayflower* plies as far up the Wurda as practicable, which during the freshes is to within a few miles of Hingun Ghat. At this point there are the falls of the Wurda. The *Mayflower* is one of the smallest Steamers in the Godavery, and conveys only 10 tons a trip. She was despatched from Rajahmundry in July 1861, was under most favorable circumstances brought over the 3rd or upper barrier, and now plies on the Wurda as far as the falls. It is very improbable that other Steamers can follow; owing to the difficulties to be encountered in ascending this formidable barrier, where the floods, of depths varying from day to day, rush over sunken rocks. Steamers to be employed at this upper section of the river will either have to be built on the spot, or brought up in pieces and compacted together there.

Capacity of these Steamers.

330. Most of these Steamers, it is believed, were intended for Canal navigation: hence they are, in several respects, but ill adapted to contend with the rapid currents of the Godavery in the freshes. The smaller Steamers at these times frequently make little more than three to four miles an hour. The accommodation on board for passengers, considering the size of the Steamers, is good. Most of them are under 50-horse power, and their average draught is two to three feet. They are, doubtless, very useful for Government purposes and Government passengers. But they are in nowise sufficient for any passenger traffic, nor for the conveyance of merchandise. Therefore, though valuable experimentally, they cannot be expected to produce any appreciable effect on trade. Nor can they contribute to the solution of the questions connected with the general navigation of the river. Ultimately, to render the water communication thoroughly efficient, a different class of Steamers will be necessary; small draught combined with great horse power being the principal requirements. Steamers of that character might tug up stream convoys of boats laden with merchandise.

Country boats.

331. At present there is absolutely no country boat traffic on the Godavery. Until quite recently one or two boats were built for a Government Ferry and for navigation works. No vessel of that kind had ever floated on the river. The only floating thing ever seen was occasionally a canoe, formed from the hollowed trunk of a teak tree, paddled by a fisherman of the lowest caste, and plying from one village to another. But if hereafter the need of water carriage shall arise, it is impossible to imagine localities better suited for boat building than these, for the forests teeming with timber literally overhang both banks of the river.

332. The above brief description of the present circumstances of the Godavery naturally leads to the considering of the future prospects of navigation on that river. This is a very important, but as yet somewhat speculative, question, on which I hope shortly to lay fuller information, after enquiries on the spot, before the Supreme Government. But I cannot in this Report avoid touching on some of the main points so far as they are capable of discussion at present.

Navigation Works.

333. The first question is—Whether the navigation of the river *can* be successfully opened? It probably can. The Tramways which pass round the barriers, so far as they have been fully constructed, are at least passable. In those parts where they are incomplete, or imperfectly passable, the defects seem to be certainly capable of remedy. Hereafter, along the lines of these Tramways, canals could be constructed for the first and third barriers. Indeed the canal for the first barrier has considerably progressed, and is almost a matter of certainty. If, as understood, the navigation for the second barrier must depend upon locks in the bed of the river, there is more room for Engineering doubt. But if these several works should be successfully constructed, the highway of water would be opened from Hingun Ghat to the sea. If, however, from financial or Engineering reasons, these locks or canals for the second and third barriers should not be constructed, and the present Tramways permanently retained, then the line would be partly a land route, and partly a water route, and the merchandise would be transferred once or twice from boats to carts, and from carts to boats.

334. The next question is—Supposing the above works had been constructed, for how many months in the year would the navigation be practicable? Probably not for the whole year.

Period during which the navigation might be opened.

335. During the dry season the reaches of the river between the barriers become shallow, and are frequently obstructed by shoals over which the water is not many inches deep. At such seasons it is said that not even boats could pass, much less Steamers. Projects indeed have been mooted for a vast storage of water near the banks of the Godavery, so as to give that river an artificial supply. Again it has been contemplated to drive in stakes in order to assist the current itself in sweeping away the sands from the shoals. But these plans, even if the expense of them could be afforded, have not arrived at a practicable stage. If, then, there is no immediate hope of the river being navigable during the dry season, and inasmuch as the dry season lasts from December to June, it would follow that, at the best and with all the works, the navigation may possibly not continue for more than six months in the year, that is from June to December.

336. Then this question arises—Supposing the navigation to be effectually open from Hingun Ghat to the sea for the latter six months of the year, would *that* result suffice for the development of traffic? This may possibly be answered in the affirmative.

Prospects of traffic.

337. Within the six months cargoes to any extent might traverse the distance up and down; though certainly the voyage upwards would be tedious. And although the latter six months of the year are not the most suitable for active traffic, yet all minor difficulties might vanish in the presence of such a cardinal advantage as the effectual though temporary opening of the river for navigation. It may be that dealers would establish store depôts at the most convenient places for lading. And thus, if the Godavery could really be opened for even six months in the year, a great traffic might possibly be created.

388. Next there is this question—Would a route, opened to the above extent, be cheaper and more convenient for the mass of produce and merchandise than the route to Bombay and the route to Mirzapore, supposing the latter routes to have Railway? Now if the canals and locks had been constructed on the Godavery, and if the water route were open continuously from end to end, it might be found *cheaper* than any other route. Very favorable calculations have been made on this point. And generally the greater cheapness of water carriage over all other is well known. If, however, there was an interruption in the water route, and Tramways had to be adopted at any of the barriers, then there would be transhipment and the breaking of bulk. This would expose the route to some disadvantages. Whether under any circumstances the Godavery would be more *convenient* than the other routes is open to doubt. With Railways those routes would be open at all seasons, and that is a great advantage. As for the Nagpore Province, were its productiveness fully developed, it could find employment both for the Rail and the river. In that case there would be, as it were, a watershed of traffic; all above that line going by rail, and all below it going by river. Or, perhaps, some particular products would go by rail, and others by river. At all events the river might possibly command a fair share of the traffic.

Advantage of the water route.

389. There, then, follows the question—What are the articles of trade that would go up and down by the Godavery route?

Articles of export.

Firstly.—Down the river there would be the cotton from the lower Valley of the Wurda, which is one of the best cotton-growing Districts in India. The finest cotton, too, is that which grows in the tracts near the head works of the navigation. From the same Valley there would be large exports of wheat, maize, millet (jowaree), and oil-seeds. Again from the District of Chutteesghur in Eastern Nagpore, a land route to the river could be provided; thence wheat, oil-seeds, safflower, and lac-dye would be exported down the river in vast quantities; and if, as some experienced men deem probable, Chutteesghur, which now produces little cotton, should become a great cotton field, there would be a further export of that article down the river. But the *exclusive* traffic of Chutteesghur could not be relied on for the Godavery. In the meanwhile two other outlets for that great district are being provided—one by the cross-road to Jubbulpore, to meet the Railway; another by the road towards Sumbulpore, to meet the Mahanuddy River. Still, if the Godavery were really open, Chutteesghur would at least contribute a quota to that traffic. Then in the Bustar District, near the Godavery, there would probably be grown grain for exportation; but that district, though fertile naturally, is as yet wild. It is very possible, however, that European grantees might take extensive grants of land in the waste near the Godavery. One application, indeed, for an extensive assignment has already been made. Lastly, the timber traffic, which already exists precariously on the Godavery, would be facilitated and increased. But it must be remembered that the best forests near the Godavery have become very

Whence derived.

much exhausted of late years. Such, then, would be the traffic down the river,—consisting of cotton, wheat, maize, millet, oil-seeds, safflower, lac-dye, and timber. But from the various causes above mentioned, the exportation might *not* prove to be nearly so great as may have been anticipated. These exports, too, are all derived from the left or Nagpore bank. The right or Nizam's side of the river is more than ordinarily wild and uncultivated; it would contribute something, though not much, to the traffic.

Secondly.—The return traffic *up* the river would consist principally of salt. As the Nagpore Province produces no salt of its own, it chiefly depends for its supply upon the Madras Coast. The cocoanut is largely used, but very little grown, in the Nagpore Province. The supply of this valuable article is drawn from the littoral districts below the Eastern Ghats. Then there would be sugar, tobacco, spices of all kinds, imported up the river. These provinces being comparatively destitute of manufactured fabrics, large assignments of these articles, and of piece goods generally, might be expected. In the same manner cutlery, hardware, and wrought iron would be imported. Lastly, there would be Government stores of considerable bulk and value.

Articles of import.

340. Together with the above goods traffic, there would, no doubt, arise some passenger traffic also. This route could offer no particular advantage to European travellers generally; but as Nagpore is garrisoned by the troops of the Madras Army, there would be a large number of both officers and men, European and Native, invalids, families, and the like passing to and fro. In respect to this, as well as to the carriage of stores and munitions, this route would possess considerable military advantages.

Passenger traffic.

341. It may be added here that no expectation is as yet entertained in these parts of any produce from Berar, cotton or other being exported by the Godavery. Still less is there any chance of exportation from the northern districts of the Central Provinces, so that the Godavery navigation project does in reality concern chiefly, if not entirely, the large Province of Nagpore itself.

342. Such, on the whole, appears to be the balance, as nearly as can be seen at this moment, of difficulties and advantages, in respect to this projected navigation for the Upper Godavery. What would be the cost of such works including all the locks and canals I have no data for estimating; but it could hardly be less than half a million Sterling, and might possibly exceed that amount. If Tramways were adopted at any of the barriers, a great saving in expense would be effected. But, on the other hand, the route would thereby become exposed to disadvantages which might detract from its utility.

343. There is one other river of which the navigation is of great concern to the Nagpore Province, namely, the Mahanuddy. Exact enquiries have not yet been made on this subject; and no great project of improvement has been designed. But from a point near Sonepore, the capital of a

The Mahanuddy.

small State, about 40 miles below Sumbulpore, the river is understood to be navigable for large boats during six months of the year, and for small boats during the remainder. Above that point the river is quite impracticable during the greater part of the year; and although in the floods there would be enough of water, yet the freshes are said to be dangerous, and at the best the navigation there is precarious; navigation, however, in the rains has occasionally been attended with marked success. Last year a boat laden with cotton was borne by the Mahanuddy from the heart of Chutteesghur down to Cuttack within a week. The practical object, however, will be to connect the rich district of Eastern Nagpore by a road to Sonepore, and the mode of doing this has been explained in the chapter on roads. If the roads from Eastern Nagpore to Sonepore were opened, there would, doubtless, arise a considerable water traffic consisting of exports and imports, the same as mentioned in connection with the Godavery.

Its navigability.

344. In the Wurda there are falls near Hingun Ghat; below that point the navigation is connected with that of the Godavery; above that point there is no chance of the river being navigated. If the Wyngunga were navigable, its connection with the Godavery would render it very valuable; but although boats can pass up and down at certain seasons, there are not as yet any known grounds for the hope that the river will really be available for traffic. This river is indeed full of rocks and shoals. For the same reason the Indrawutty and Selroo, both feeders of the Godavery, are not navigable. Captain Glasfurd's recent visit places this beyond a doubt. The Nerbudda within these Provinces is altogether unsuited for navigation.

The Wurda.

CHAPTER IX.

FINANCIAL.

345. The finances of the Central Provinces were examined by Colonel Elliot and myself in October and December 1861, and a full Report thereon was submitted to, and considered by, the Supreme Government.

346. The various heads of Revenue have been shown in the chapter relating to that branch. The actual income may be thus exhibited, under its different items for 1861-62:—

Heads of Income.

	Rupees.
Land Revenue	51,76,152
Abkaree	8,96,499
Stamps	2,57,189
Income Tax	4,25,002
Customs and Salt	11,43,626
Miscellaneous	3,53,711
Total Rupees ...	82,52,179

or 83 lakhs. In the joint Report of Colonel Elliot and myself the aggregate income

was set down at 42 lakhs for Nagpore, and 41 lakhs for Saugor and Nerbudda Territories,—in all 83 lakhs, which has been entered in the Budget for 1862-63. To this again should be added one lakh and a quarter for Sumbulpore. The total income may, however, be assumed at not less than eighty lakhs and not more than eighty-five.

347. As regards expenditure, in accordance with the various recommendations contained in the above-mentioned Report, and with the principles approved by the Supreme Government, *all* the Civil Establishments, those pertaining to the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, to the Nagpore Province, and to Sumbulpore, have now been revised as a combined whole on an uniform principle. In this operation the valuable data collated, and the scales and schedules proposed by Mr. Cust, in the Punjab, have been largely made use of. In the District Civil Establishments a saving of nearly one lakh has been effected. In the Police the reductions effected have been explained in the chapter on that Department: wherein the expenditure was reduced from 14¼ to 10¼ lakhs. On the other hand, the Offices of Chief Commissioner and Secretary were new creations; and the salaries of the Commissioned Officers in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories were raised in accordance with instructions given before the incorporation of those Territories with the Central Provinces, in order to equalize the scale with that of the Punjab and Oude. Again an increase was made in the Educational Department, in order to provide increased instruction, and in the expenditure for Medical Charitable Dispensaries, and a new Department of Audit and Account was created. In Sumbulpore again some increase was incurred by the creation of the Commissionership of Chutteesghur; but then the Police in that district were reduced by Rupees 31,912.

Revision of Civil Establishments.

348. After balancing all these items of increase against the reduction, the *net* result has been a saving of Rupees 2,94,596, or nearly three lakhs of Rupees, as may be seen thus:—

Saving effected.

	Old Scale.	*Revised Scale.*
Salaries	... 4,96,200	... 5,97,600
Establishments ...	... 6,02,280	... 5,62,756
Police	... 15,15,314	... 11,22,206
Medical Dispensaries...	... 80,994	... 87,630
Educational ...	... 45,000	... 75,000
	27,39,788	24,45,192

349. Now this saving has been in a main degree rendered feasible by the amalgamation of all these various territories under one Central Administration. The reductions to this extent would never have been practicable, while one part of these Provinces was under the Government of North-West Provinces, another under that of Bengal, and the remainder under a separate Administration of its own. But when all the various Establishments were tried by an uniform principle and brought into one focus, then a comparison at once comprehensive and minute, of one Province with another,

and one district with another, both as regards scale of expenditure, and mode of administration, was made, and a general re-distribution of expenditure effected. It is by such comparisons and distributions alone that retrenchments can be enforced.

350. The above are the ordinary and regular Civil Establishments of *all kinds* (including Police); they amount to 25 or 26 per cent. on the total income of the Central Provinces.

351. But there is an extraordinary expenditure, chiefly for survey and settlement operations which are designed to increase the revenue and to benefit the country, but which may be contracted or expanded according to the necessities of the year. During 1861-62 the expenditure for this purpose amounted to Rupees 2,86,782; the proposed expenditure for 1862-63 amounts to Rupees 3,64,957. This may be regarded as so much reproductive outlay.

Expense of Surveys and Settlements.

352. The total Civil expenditure for the year 1862-63, according to the revised Budget, including all establishments ordinary and extraordinary, all Police charges, and all contingencies whatsoever, will amount to Rupees 32,50,000, or 32½ lakhs: being 38 per cent. on the total income of these Provinces. From this head, however, the political and public works expenditure of all kinds is excluded. The purely Civil administration, then, in these Provinces costs one-third of the revenue.

353. The political expenditure in these Provinces is heavy, and chiefly arises from the liberal provision made by the British Government for the family and dependants of the late Rajah of Nagpore; the details of that provision have been described in the Political Section. In former years the expenditure on this account, in Nagpore, has been set down at not more than eight lakhs; but from these were excluded pensions under enquiry. These have now been all reported and brought up; and the aggregate amounts to nearly ten lakhs. To this one lakh must be added, an item from the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories and Sumbulpore, and the total will not fall short of eleven lakhs. As a set off against this there is the Bhonsla Fund, of which the final account was appended to the joint Report of Colonel Elliot and myself. It amounts to twenty lakhs in the aggregate. The political expenditure thus amounts to one-eighth of the total income. It will gradually diminish by lapses.

Political expenditure.

354. The most important item of expenditure in these Provinces is *Military*. The total military expenditure shown to have existed previously to the Report of Colonel Elliot and myself reached the sum of Rupees 54,81,550, or 55 lakhs for the year 1860-61. This is the highest rate of expenditure ever attained, and represented the total force, regular and irregular, serving within these provinces. If continued and if debited to our finances, it would absorb two-thirds of the annual income. But during the past year 1861-62 some reductions have been effected. The disbandment of the Nagpore Irregular Force, included in this total, caused a saving of about nine* lakhs of Rupees. The Regular Force was reduced by one Regiment of Cavalry, two

Military expenditure.

* All items included.

Regiments of Native Infantry, which saved at least seven lakhs. A Battery of Artillery is to be transferred, which will produce a further saving of one lakh. These reductions will, in all, amount to seventeen lakhs, and bring the military expenditure for 1862-63 from 55 to 38 lakhs. But there still remain 38 lakhs of expenditure for troops serving within these Provinces.

Necessary for defence.

355. The question then arises as to how far this expenditure is debitable to the local finance of the Central Provinces? The greater portion undoubtedly is so chargeable. The troops at Nagpore, and the out-stations dependent on it, and the troops at Saugor, are certainly necessary for the defence of these Provinces, irrespectively of any imperial considerations. The cost of these two forces would amount to 29 lakhs, as shewn in the margin, according to the average rates usually assumed in the Military Finance Department. This amount, then, is confessedly chargeable to the finance of the Central Provinces. The remainder of the Military expenditure, nine lakhs (difference between 29 and 38 lakhs), is on account of the Jubbulpore force, consisting of troops as noted in the margin. It was mentioned in the joint Report of Colonel Elliot and myself that this force is not required for local purposes, as a detachment of Europeans to prevent the station from surprise would be sufficient. If, then, this item of Military expenditure be regarded as imperial, the sum of about nine lakhs might be deducted from the 38 lakhs, and that would leave 20 lakhs, as already explained, really chargeable to local finance. If it be *not* so regarded, then the debit for all the troops serving within these Provinces would be 38 lakhs.

Nagpore.	
2 Battalions of Artillery ...	... 8½ lakhs.
1 Squadron ...	... ¼ "
1 European Regiment ...	... 7 "
3 Native Infantry Regiments ...	... 5 "
Saugor.	
2 Battalions of Artillery ...	... 7½ "
1 European Regiment ...	... 5 "
1 Regiment of Cavalry ...	... 2 "
1 Native Infantry ...	... 2 "
Staff, &c.	... 1 "
Total	... 29 lakhs.

1 Battalion of Artillery.
1 European Regiment.
1 Regiment Native Infantry.

Balance of income and expenditure.

356. If the Military expenditure were taken at the full 38 lakhs, then the total of the three heads of expenditure, Civil, Political and Military, will amount to 81½ lakhs, which fully equals the possible annual income. In that case it may be supposed that these Provinces will pay fully for their own defence and administration without leaving any margin for material improvement. Even in that extreme case there would remain a small surplus and a considerable amount of local funds with which districts, roads, and stations would be kept in order; but main roads and such like great works would be left undone. But if the Military expenditure chargeable to local finance were assumed at 29 lakhs, then there would be a total of expenditure so chargeable of 72½ lakhs which would leave a margin of a few lakhs for large public works.

Central Provinces pay for their own administration and defence.

357. But the Public Works expenditure though small at first has much increased of late, the total assignments of the year 1861-62 amounted to 15 lakhs, and for the current year 1862-63 to 22 lakhs. It is unnecessary to recapitulate what has been said in the chapter on that subject, regarding

the necessity of these works, to the progress and development of the country. But if the cost of all these great public works, *and* the cost of *all* the regular troops (both those required for imperial and those for local purposes) serving within these Provinces, be debited to the revenues of these Provinces, then there would be a deficit of at least (20) twenty lakhs. Again, even if the Central Provinces be debited with only that proportion of the regular troops admitted to be justly chargeable, still with the present expenditure in Public Works, there must be a deficit of at least ten lakhs. According to this latter view, which is perhaps the most correct one, the balance sheet would show as follows :—

But there is an actual deficit.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Income.	*Expenditure.*	
83 Lakhs.	Civil	32½ lakhs.
	Political	11 „
	Share of Military ...	29 „
	Total excluding Public Works	72½ lakhs.
	Balance at Credit ...	10½ lakhs.

To 72½ as above add 22 lakhs for public works, then total expenditure 94½ lakhs, which being 10½ lakhs in excess of 83, represents a deficit of 11½ lakhs.

358. The conclusion is, then, that the finances of the Central Provinces will bear all the cost of their own administration, and of that regular Military force which is necessary for their defence, and would still leave a *small* margin for material improvements. If that moderate modicum of improvement be foregone, then the finances would even bear the cost of that portion of the troops cantoned within their limits, which are over and above the Military force necessary for defence. In *this* sense, then, the Central Provinces do and will "pay," though barely, for their own expenses. But if they are to be improved and developed, then some outlay over and above their income will be necessary. Such outlay, however, will *not* be incurred on unproductive establishments like those of defence; but, on the contrary, on highly productive and remunerative objects. And every lakh of imperial revenue which these Provinces may *thus* absorb now, they will one day repay ten fold into that General Treasury which represents the wealth of the Empire.

Arising solely from material improvement.

359. It remains to state that during the year a separate Auditor and Accountant has been appointed in these Provinces, in immediate communication with the administration at Nagpore. This measure will conduce greatly to due financial control.

360. The establishment of an Agency of the Bank of Bengal at Nagpore, with branches at *Jubbulpore* and *Saugor*, has been proposed. This arrangement will facilitate trade and lead to the early introduction of the Government paper money.

CHAPTER X.

Ecclesiastical.

Number of Chaplains serving in the Central Provinces.

361. There are at present four Reverend Chaplains serving in these Provinces—one at Saugor, and one at Jubbulpore, both belonging to the Bengal Establishment; and two at Kamptee (Nagpore) belonging to the Madras Establishment. One of the two Chaplains at Kamptee proceeds to Seetabuldee, the Civil Station (ten miles distant) on Wednesdays and Sundays for Divine Service.

The need of a Chaplain to reside at Seetabuldee.

362. The need of a Chaplain to be resident at Seetabuldee has been strongly represented. The station is the seat of the Administration of the Central Provinces, and is fast increasing. The European community numbers a hundred and fifty families of various classes. The presence of a Chaplain twice a week for a few hours is utterly insufficient for their spiritual supervision. The Reverend Chaplains from Kamptee, doubtless, do their utmost. But none save a resident Chaplain could really perform all that is required. Formerly the Madras Government used to permit one of the two Chaplains, maintained in Nagpore, to reside at Seetabuldee (Nagpore), but last year it was ordered that both should reside at Kamptee.

Diocesan jurisdiction.

363. The Saugor and Nerbudda Territory is in the Diocese of Calcutta. It appears doubtful as to whether the Nagpore Province belongs to the Diocese of Calcutta or of Madras. It is very desirable that this should be settled. Until it is so, there will be little chance of a Chaplain being stationed at Seetabuldee.

CHAPTER XI.

Political.

364. The principal events falling within the range of this Report are those relating to the annexation of the Kingdom of Nagpore, and the management of the family and dependants of the late Rajah Rughojee Bhonsla.

Annexation of the Nagpore Kingdom.

365. When annexation was proclaimed in March 1854, there was not any murmur of discontent, nor any resistance to British Authority. The disbandment of the Rajah's army, and the transfer of a portion to the new Nagpore Irregular Force, were carried out in perfect order and quietness. Remembering the prosperous days under the virtual regency of Sir R. Jenkins, the people generally (with the exception of the retainers of the Royal Family) appeared to acquiesce cheerfully in the establishment of British Rule.

366. The only attempt at disturbance, in consequence of measures connected with annexation, was that which occurred in 1855. The Government had deemed that if the State jewels, treasure, and household paraphernalia of the late Rajah were left to

the control of the family and dependants; this valuable property would be wasted or irregularly disposed of. It was, therefore, determined that all these effects should be collected and their value realized. The proceeds were to constitute a deposit in the hands of the British Government, to be termed the Bhonsla Fund, for the benefit and support of the Bhonsla family. When the State property was given up, an unsuccessful attempt at disturbance was made by the palace retainers, and a Reverend Missionary (mistaken apparently for an Officer) was maltreated by the mob. The realized proceeds of the property, according to accounts finally closed, amount to (20) twenty lakhs of Rupees; and that sum constitutes the Bhonsla Fund.

State property.

367. The terms of the provision for the Bhonsla family were, in the first instance, declared at the annexation. These included the widows and connexions of the late Rajah. Accordingly the following pensions were granted:—

Political Pensions.

			Per annum. Rupees.
The Banka Baee	...	...	1,20,000
Widows of the late Rajahs. Unpoorna „	...	...	50,000
Durga „	...	...	25,000
Annunda „	...	...	25,000
Kamuljee „	...	...	25,000
Savitree „	...	...	10,000
			2,55,000

Of these the Banka Baee was a very distinguished princess, widow of the second Rughojee, who is so well known to history. She had been Regent in the days of Sir R. Jenkins, during the minority of the third and last Rughojee. She bore a high character and possessed commanding influence*. Unpoorna Baee, the senior widow, died towards the close of 1855. Thereupon the Banka Baee and the remaining widows formally adopted a young relative, Janojee Bhonsla, as their son and appointed him head of the house. He was then aged 22.

The Banka Baee.

368. In 1857-58, during the time of trouble, the family behaved with fidelity to the Government; the Banka Baee setting the best example, and using all her influence in the interest of the British cause. She died, at an advanced age, in the autumn of 1858.

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* Mr. Plowden, Commissioner of Nagpore, thus describes her character:—

"Her Highness was, undoubtedly, a very remarkable woman. Her strong intellect, sound judgment, and great strength, and consistency of purpose, enabled her to acquire and maintain an ascendancy in all the Councils of the State and of the Palace, which she never failed to exercise beneficially; while her kindness of disposition, her self-privations and her charities endeared her to the Palace household and won for her the affectionate regard of the multitude. She was firmly attached to the British alliance; and her ruling principle of action was to take no step contrary to the wishes or without the permission of the British Government. By this principle she continued to be actuated after the incorporation of the Province with the British Territories."

Final Pensions.

369. Thereafter it was decided to revise the allowances payable to the Bhonsla family, and to settle a provision on Janojee, the adopted son of the Ranees. The new scale of allowances was fixed as follows :—

		Per annum. Rupees.
	Janojee Rajah	90,000
Widows.	Durga Baee	45,000
	Annunda Baee	45,000
	Savitree Baee	15,000
	Zenana Ladies	18,000
	Household Slaves, called otherwise Bhonslas and Barakurnees	20,000
		2,33,000

Janojee was constituted head of the house, and to him the payment of the stipends of the Ranees and the general control of the Palace and household were entrusted.

370. The lands of Deor in the Sattara District of the Bombay Presidency, which had been hereditary in the Bhonsla family for 125 years, were conferred on Janojee and his heirs (begotten or adopted) in perpetuity, with the title of Rajah of Deor. The Patent of grant signed by the Governor General, and specifying that the grant was in consideration of the fidelity of the Banka Baee and the family during the time of trouble, was presented to Janojee in June last.

Provision for dependants of the late Rajah.

371. Liberal provision has also been made for the family and connexions and dependants of the late Ruler. These are very numerous, owing to the extraordinary and complicated domestic relations which it was the custom of Mahratta Princes to contract. All these cases have now been finally investigated and submitted to Government. The total sum already granted or recommended amounts to 7,87,000 Rupees, or 7¾ lakhs per annum. The pensioners number some 2,158 persons, and the pensions range from 3 Rupees per annum the lowest, to 35,000 Rupees the highest. The stipends of both classes, then, aggregate 9,82,000 Rupees, or 10 lakhs per annum, an amount which will yearly grow less by lapses. Besides these cash payments, the family have landed grants free of revenue worth about Rupees 50,000, or half a lakh per annum. The total as it now stands (cash and land) is equal to about 25 per cent. on the revenues of the Nagpore Province Proper, or, in other words, one-fourth of the income of the late Nagpore Kingdom is devoted to the support of the Bhonsla family, together with the retainers and dependants of the late Ruler, in accordance with the political obligation of the British Government. But as a partial set off against this, there is the Bhonsla Fund already alluded to.

372. On the Eastern Frontiers of these Provinces there are political affairs which claim a brief notice; although one important District in that quarter, Sumbulpore and its Dependencies, has been but recently transferred from the Bengal Government to this Administration. The territory now pertaining to the District of Sumbulpore consists of two political divisions—1*st*, the country belonging absolutely to the British Government; 2*nd*, the country belonging to tributary Chiefs under British control.

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The Sumbulpore State.

373. The first division, which is in all respects British territory, once formed the dominions of the Rajahs of Sumbulpore, who belonged to the tribe of Chohan Rajpoots. It was subjugated by the Mahrattas and formed part of the dominions of the Bhonsla family. It was ceded to the British Government by Appa Sahib and Rughojee Bhonsla in 1817 and 1826. The British Government restored the Rajahs to the throne. In 1850, however, owing to failure of heirs to the last Ruler, Narrain Singh, the State lapsed and came under British Administration. Until the year 1857 it remained attached to the North-Western Frontier Agency of Bengal. At that time, however, a rebellion arose which lasted long, and was put down finally, in April last, by the Bengal Government. The chief rebel, however, Soorundersah, surrendered in May last after the district had come under this Administration. This Soorundersah, a relative of the late Rajah, was imprisoned in the British Jail at Hazarecbagh at the instance of the Rajah himself; he was released by mutineer sepoys in August 1857. Retiring to his Native District he took advantage of the troubles of the time to set up a pretension to the throne of Sumbulpore, and shortly afterwards rebelled. He was joined by most of the chiefs and landholders of the district. Military Detachments were despatched from Cuttack; but their operations were not perfectly successful, as the wild and wooded country favored rebels. Moreover, many leading insurgents who would have surrendered, as the general pacification of the country rendered the rebel cause hopeless, were apparently deterred by fear of severity.

Origin of rebellion.

374. These events occurred early in 1858. When, towards the close of that year the Royal Amnesty was proclaimed, the Sumbulpore rebels did not respond to it. Thus the rebellion continued; the British Officer maintaining authority at the Head Quarters of the district, and the rebels eluding pursuit in the woods, hills, and forests, and constantly plundering in the cultivated and inhabited tracts. This state of affairs lasted till 1861, when additional force was employed and further promises of pardon were held out by the Bengal Government. These promises, were gradually accepted, the leaders surrendering one by one and the rebellion dwindling away. In May of 1862, Soorundersah, the original leader surrendered under pardon. There is now but one rebel at large. Peace was finally restored to the district in April 1862 under the Bengal Government.

Rebellion suppressed by Bengal Government.

375 I have stated, without comment, the main facts as they appear on the records. The Bengal Government have declared "that mismanagement attended the direction of affairs in Sumbulpore from the very commencement of the disturbances in 1857, and that the proceedings of the local Authorities were generally of such a character as to

create mistrust and to foster rebellion rather than to promote confidence and encourage loyalty."

The Gurjat States.

Patna.	Barghur.
Sonepore.	Sarunghur.
Bamra.	Phooljur.
Kalahandy.	Sukti.
Khurriar.	Boindanawaghur.
Rehraoole.	Borasumur.
Raighur.	

376. The Dependencies of Sumbulpore consist of the Gurjat Tributary States, 18 in number, as named in the margin. The revenues of these States are not accurately known. The annual income of the largest may amount to a lakh of Rupees; of the smallest, to not more than 15,000 Rupees. The aggregate of the whole does not exceed five lakhs per annum. These States comprise a large area, sparsely populated and scantily cultivated, abounding in hills and forests. The chiefs belong to the Chohan (Rajpoot) and Gond tribes. Their past history is similar to that of Sumbulpore. They pay respectively annual tributes varying from Rupees 160 to Rupees 5,333; the total amounting to 15,513 Rupees per annum. They are wild half civilized chieftains. During the time of trouble they did not side with the insurgents, but (with two exceptions) they rendered no particular aid to the British Authority; and several of them harboured fugitive rebels even up to the most recent time.

Their powers and functions.

377. The chiefs are under the political control of British Authority. In the management of their territories they are practically independent under ordinary circumstances, except as regards the administration of criminal justice. In that department they stand virtually towards the British Officer in the relation of Magistrates towards the Sessions Judge, and they have always administered the criminal laws of the British Government. It has now been recommended that the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act should be extended to the Gurjat Tributary States, and that the chiefs should be gazetted as Magistrates.

378. I am bound to state in this place that Major H. B. Impey, the Deputy Commissioner, who joined in 1861, appears, by his personal exertions, to have greatly contributed to the pacification of his district. By his local knowledge and by his aptitude in conciliating the people under his charge, he is well qualified for the management of the Sumbulpore District and the control of the Gurjat chiefs.

The Bustar State.

379. The extensive dependency of Bustar claims a brief notice in this chapter. Its character has been already adverted to in the introductory chapter. It is situated in the extreme south of the Central Provinces. Its revenues may amount to one lakh of Rupees per annum, and its population to 200,000 souls. Its area, of not less than 13,000 square miles, extends from within a short distance of the Godavery in the south, into the heart of the Nagpore Province, and as far as the sources of the Mahanuddy and few rivers in the north; and from the boundary of the Jeypore State in the Eastern Ghats to the Godavery near Seroncha in the west. This State came under the power of the Nagpore Government in 1777, when the then Rajah of Bustar bound himself to pay an annual tribute of Rupees 5,000 for Military aid received from the Mahrattas. Owing to its distance from

the capital, the inhospitable nature of the country and its inhabitants, but especially on account of its notorious insalubrity, it has, till lately, remained unknown and uncared for, buried in the depths of its impenetrable jungles and fastnesses.

380. The Bustar Rajahs call themselves Rajpoots; but they appear to be of mixed lineage, Gonds and Rajpoots. The seat of their power was first at Wurungul in the Deccan, the capital of Telengana, over which ancient kingdom their ancestors ruled for many generations. The gradual encroachments of the Mahomedans, however, stript them of many of their possessions. Their power waned from the commencement of the 14th century, after the Mahomedan invasion of the Deccan; and in 1421 Wurrungul fell to the victorious arms of the Bahmunee Mahomedan kings. The Rajah attended by a band of devoted followers made good his flight across the Godavery into the pathless forests that fringed his northern frontier; and from that day Telengana has been in the hands of Mahomedan powers. Passing into the most of the wilderness, the ancestors of the Bustar Rajahs appear to have subjected the chiefs and inhabitants whom they found in possession, and finally to have established themselves and built their capital at a spot not far from Jugdulpore, their present residence. That the rule they displaced was a prosperous one, and in a comparatively advanced state of civilization, is still attested by the ruined temples and tanks to be found in the very centre of the territory, the former displaying much beauty of design and architecture. Subsequently the Bustar Rajahs removed their capital to Jugdulpore, on the south bank of the Indrawutty, where it has since remained.

The founding of that kingdom.

381. When the Nagpore kingdom lapsed to the British Government, Bustar, which had always been under the immediate control of the authorities of Chuttesghur, continued to remain under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of that District. In 1856 Captain Charles Elliot, then Deputy Commissioner, penetrated into this tract, which no European had ever visited, and collected much valuable information regarding the country. In 1860, on the formation of the Godavery territory (ceded by His Highness the Nizam) into a separate district, it appeared advisable to incorporate Bustar with that charge, and it was accordingly placed under the Deputy Commissioner of Seroncha, Captain Glasford. Since then the dependency has been visited by that Officer, and also by Captain Stewart, Explorer and Examiner of Forests, and additional information has been supplied.

Now incorporated with Seroncha.

382. Till a comparatively late period the Bustar Rajahs possessed full powers over their subjects. In 1839 the Nagpore Government interdicted them from inflicting capital punishments. At the same time it was arranged that the Rajah's Prime Minister should be always appointed with the sanction of the British Resident. It is indeed most desirable that the Rajah should learn to exercise his authority according to civilized ideas, and by non-interference should be made to feel his own responsibility; but, in cases of bloodshed his administration is found so inefficient as to retard the progress of society. In regard, then, to the relation of this dependency to the British Government, it has been proposed that cases punishable with death shall be under the control of the Deputy Commissioner

Powers of the present Rajah.

of Seronchs. In all other matters the Rajah and his minister may adjudicate; the British Officer exercising a general supervision and inculcating principles of moderation and justice upon chiefs and ministers who are too often strangers to such ideas.

Dispute between Jeypore and Bustar.

383. For the last 80 years a serious dispute has existed between the Rajah of Bustar and his neighbour the Rajah of Jeypore, who is subject to the Madras Government, regarding the possession of a considerable tract of valuable country situated between Jugdulpore and Jeypore. The matter has been fully enquired into by the Deputy Commissioner of Seronchs in person in company with the Assistant Agent, Vizagapatam, and a plan for settling the dispute has been submitted for the orders of the Supreme Government.

Cessation of Meriah Sacrifice.

384. Since 1839 two parties of Police have been maintained in Bustar, one at the chief town of the dependency, the other in the interior where it was formerly rumoured that Meriah sacrifice prevailed. There is, however, every reason to believe that the practice of sacrificing human victims has fallen into disuse, if indeed it ever did exist; and it will be sufficient to make the Rajah and minister strictly responsible for the absolute prevention of the horried rite. As serious affrays and collisions between the Bustar and Jeypore people are by no means rare, an efficient body of British Police, horse and foot, have lately been stationed on the boundary of Bustar and Jeypore.

The Kalahundy State.

385. The dependency of Kalahundy, sometimes erroneously named Kharonde, may have an area of 3,000 square miles, an annual revenue of 80,000 Rupees and a population of 60,000 souls. It is situated in the south-eastern frontier of the Central Provinces, immediately to the south of the territories of the Gurjat Chiefs of the Sumbulpore District. Although not covered with such dense and interminable forests as Bustar, and containing some extent of open and cultivated country, yet the greater part of the dependency to the south and east is exceedingly mountainous and rugged; the highest peak of this wild portion attaining a height of 4,000 feet above the sea level. The plains are inhabited by a partly civilized people of mixed tribes who subsist by cultivation. The hills and mountains which are held by feudatories of the Rajah are inhabited by the Khonds, a fierce, superstitious and semi-barbarous race, who are a branch of that tribe of hillmen which is ramified over the wild tracts of Orissa.

386. These are the people among whom human sacrifice and female infanticide did once prevail. In Kalahundy, however, owing to the unceasing efforts of the Agency for the suppression of Meriah sacrifice, these revolting practices have been greatly repressed.

Now incorporated in Nagpore.

387. The State came under the sovereignty of Nagpore about 150 years ago, on the occasion of some assistance afforded the Rajah by the Mahrattas. Since when a tribute of Rupees 5,000 per annum, subsequently reduced to Rupees 4,000, has been regularly paid. The dependency was formerly under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Raepore, when,

for reasons similar to those which dictated the transfer of Bustar, it was placed under the Deputy Commissioner of Seroncha. The late transfer of Sumbulpore to the Central Provinces has, however, altered the situation. The Rajahs of Kalahundy had their first home in the neighbourhood of Sumbulpore; they are connected by family ties with several of the Gurjat Chiefs, and by language, caste and custom with the people of those territories. It has, therefore, been recommended that the Kalahundy be transferred from the Seroncha to the Sumbulpore District.

388. Much information regarding this State has been collected by the successive Agents for the Suppression of Meriah Sacrifice, and also by the late Deputy Commissioner of Raepore, Captain Charles Elliot, who visited it in 1856. The country is poor and unproductive, and its exports but trifling. Many of the great bands of Brinjarah traders, who transport the produce of Chutteesghur to the Coast, and return with salt, tobacco, &c., and cocoanuts, have their routes in this direction.

Dispute between the That and Put Rajahs.

389. A serious dispute has existed for the last 12 years between the Put and That Rajahs of Thoomool, a large zemindary within this State. These two parties represent two sub-divisions of a younger branch of the Kalahundy family. Their dispute materially affects the interests of the Rajahs of Kalahundy and Jeypore. The former supports the Put Rajah in his claims to the sole management of Thoomool and its sub-division; while the latter espouses the cause of the latter. Captain Glasfurd, the Deputy Commissioner of Seroncha, has enquired into the dispute in person at Thoomool during this season. His report and a plan for the settlement of this dispute has been submitted to the Supreme Government.

390. On the wise management of the States above described, namely, those of the Gurjat, of Bustar, and of Kalahundy, the gradual peopling of rich but scarcely inhabited tracts and the civilizing of semi-barbarous tribes will materially depend.

391. The only other political circumstances requiring notice in this Report are the addition of a part of the Shaghur State (confiscated for rebellion) to the Saugor District; and of the strip of territory along the left bank of the Godavery, ceded by the Nizam simultaneously with the territorial arrangements regarding the Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

392. In 1860 the Sohagpore strip of territory, belonging to the Mundla District, and the Plateau of Amerkuntuck, belonging to Nagpore, were granted to the Rajah of Rewa, in reward for the services rendered by him during the period of disturbance. The Plateau of Amerkuntuck, where the Nerbudda and the Soane both derive their source, is one of the most interesting places in this part of India. Its altitude is between 3,000 and 4,000 feet above level of sea; its climate is cool and salubrious. It almost overlooks the fertile plains of Chutteesghur; and in many respects it seems fitted for European Settlement.

CHAPTER XII.

MILITARY.

393. There are not *now* any Military forces whatever subordinate to this Administration. The forces serving in these Provinces are composed entirely of troops belonging to the regular army.

Formation of the Nagpore Irregular Force.

394. Under the late Nagpore Administration there was indeed a body of troops styled the Nagpore Irregular Force. This Force was raised in 1854, when the Kingdom of Nagpore was annexed to the British Dominions. It was formed from the army maintained by the late Rajah Rughojee Bhonsla. When the Rajah (then a minor) was placed on the throne, after the defection and final dethronement of Appa Sahib in 1818, the troops were more or less organized under the administration of the Resident Sir R. Jenkins, and consisted of about 6,000 men in all, costing about 10 to 12 lakhs of Rupees per annum. When this force was broken up on annexation, a new British force was raised, of men taken from the old army, under the name of the Nagpore Irregular Force, of the strength given below :—

1 Light Field Battery, all ranks	...	...	341
1 Regiment of Cavalry, ditto	...	...	592
3 Regiments of Infantry, ditto	...	...	3,003
	Total	...	3,936

at an annual cost of 6 lakhs and 44,000 Rupees. It continued to serve up to 1861, when it was reduced to 2 Battalions of Infantry of 700 each. In May of 1862 these last named Regiments were broken up. The reduction and final disbandment of the Nagpore Irregular Force has been described in the chapter on Police.

Its composition.

395. The Nagpore Irregular Force, which was thus maintained for the first eight years after annexation, was a well trained and effective Military body, composed in the first instance entirely of old soldiers taken from the late Ruler's army, chiefly men of the country, Mahrattas and Deccanees and Mahomedans, with a small sprinkling of Hindoostanees. The Native Officers were generally men of good family of approved service and of local influence. The formation and maintenance of the force contributed to allay political discontent, and found employment for men who might have been otherwise engaged in mischief. During the troubles of 1857 the conduct of the force was good, and often exemplary; with two exceptions, however, which must be noted.

396. On the night of the 13th June 1857 it was discovered that the Cavalry, then stationed in Seetabuldee (the Civil Station), had conspired to mutiny and rebel in conjunction with malcontents (chiefly Mahomedans) in the City of Nagpore. On

examination of the Lines, (stables) it was proved that the horses were saddled ready for action. But the 1st Regiment of Infantry close at hand turned out and stood firm, and no actual disturbance occurred. On enquiry it appeared that the conspiracy was partial, and a severe example was made of those who were proved to be conspirators. But it is evident that the service which the 1st Regiment of Infantry performed by standing so firm at that critical moment was of the greatest value to the British cause. Later in the same year in the month of August, a small detachment of the Nagpore Field Battery mutinied at Raepore, but the affair was promptly suppressed without much mischief being done.

Affair on the 13th June 1857.

397. But as already stated, with these two exceptions, the conduct of the force was good. The Cavalry was, after the guilty men had been tried and punished, sent on service in the field, and behaved so well that the Government ultimately accepted that good conduct in condonation of the blame attaching to the Regiment generally for the affair of the 13th June.

398. After these events various detachments of the force, Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry were employed during the latter part of 1857 and early in 1858 on active field service, in different parts of the Nagpore Province and beyond its limits—north of the Nerbudda, in the Mundla District, and on the eastern frontier towards Sumbulpore. On all occasions the men evinced a willing and cheerful spirit, and their conduct in the field was so good as to merit and receive the acknowledgment of the Government of India.

Field service of the Force.

399. It is not practicable to include in this Report any detailed account of Military events connected with the mutinies of 1857, suffice it to state that, at *Saugor*, the 3rd Irregular Cavalry, the 42nd Bengal Native Infantry, and portion of the 31st Bengal Native Infantry mutinied and left the station; that the European inhabitants occupied the Fort for six months, but no act of violence was committed, nor was any attack, either then or subsequently, made upon either the Fort or City by the rebels; and that at *Jubbulpore*, after the Madras Column had passed through the station northwards, taking with it from there one Wing of the 52nd Bengal Native Infantry, the other Wing broke into mutiny and fled from the Cantonment without, however, being guilty of any outrage there, although one European Officer on detachment at a distance with a portion of the Regiment was shot by his men. The arrival, soon after at Jubbulpore, of fresh Madras troops restored the confidence of the inhabitants and prevented any further anxiety being felt. At Nagpore (Kamptee), there was no sign of trouble whatever, and the conduct of the Madras troops was perfectly good.

State of affairs during 1857.

400. Nor is it necessary in this Report to describe the regular Military operations undertaken in these Provinces during the period of disturbance. It will suffice to state, as a matter of history, that a column from the Madras Presidency under Major General Whitlock assembled at Jubbulpore at the end of 1857 and beginning of 1858, and, clearing the country there of

Regular Military operations.

rebels, went on to Bundlecund. Similarly a force from the Bombay Presidency, under Sir H. Rose, entered the Saugor Territory, reduced the rebels in the north-west portion of these territories, capturing their forts and forcing the passes, and passed on victoriously to Jhansee.

401. The Military operations in the Sumbulpore District do not require mention. Thereafter the Sumbulpore Levy was formed, it has now been incorporated in the Police.

402. The disbandment of the Military Police in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories has been mentioned in the chapter on Police. The Seroncha Sebundee Levy is also now amalgamated in the Police.

403. Thus there is not, within all these Provinces, a single soldier irregular, or other, except those of the regular army, under the Military Department. It only remains to mention the strength and disposition of the troops as they now stand.

Force of Regular troops in the Central Provinces.

404. During the year immediately preceding 1857, the only European troops in these Provinces consisted of about three Batteries of Artillery, and the rest of the forces were Native Cavalry and Infantry, and some Artillery. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories these troops were supplied partly from the Bengal and partly from the Madras Army; those at Nagpore entirely from the Madras Army.

Its present distribution.

405. After the vindication of British authority in 1858-59, a Regiment of European Infantry was stationed at each of the stations of Kamptee (Nagpore), Saugor, and Jubbulpore—in all three Regiments. The Regiments at Saugor and Jubbulpore however, furnished strong detachments for Nowgong, and Nagode, respectively, in Bundlecund. At the same time it was arranged that the Native troops at Saugor and Jubbulpore should be furnished entirely from the Bengal Army, while the troops at Nagpore continued to be furnished from Madras. This disposition of the European troops continues up to the present time. But recently the Native force has been reduced, and in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories the Bengal Native troops have been relieved by Madras Regiments. On the 1st January and 1st of May 1862, the strength of the forces stood as below in Batteries and Regiments :—

		ARTILLERY.		CAVALRY.		REGIMENTS.	
		European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.
Saugor Division ...	January ...	3	0	0	1½	2	3
	May ...	3	0	0	1	2	2
Nagpore „ ...	January ...	3	0	0	1	1	4
	May ...	2	0	0	0½*	1	3

* At this moment there is no Cavalry at Kamptee, but a squadron is ultimately expected; therefore ½ is set down.

A Battery is expected to be removed, but has not yet actually left. The above arrangement shows a reduction of one Battery of European Artillery, one Regiment of Native Cavalry, and two Regiments of Native Infantry.

Its proposed future distribution.

406. According to the latest arrangement the disposition of the forces is as below in Batteries and Regiments:—

	Artillery.		Cavalry.		Infantry.	
	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.
Saugor ...	2	0	0	1	1	1
Jubbulpore ...	1	0	0	0	1	1
Kamptee (Nagpore) ...	2	0	0	½	1	1½
Hoshungabad ...	0	0	0	0	0	½
Raepore ...	0	0	0	0	0	½
Chanda ...	0	0	0	0	0	½

It is to be remembered, however, that the European Regiments at Saugor and Jubbulpore still furnish a strong detachment to Nowgong and Nagode in Bundlecund. The Wings of Madras Native Infantry at Raepore and Chanda, respectively, are in the stead of the two Battalions of the Nagpore Irregular Force (broken up), which used to hold those stations. The detachments of Madras Native Infantry at Nursingpore and Baitool have been withdrawn, and arrangements have been made for recalling, to its Regimental Head Quarters, the one at Dumoh.

Principal Military Stations.

407. Of the above stations, it is to be observed that, Saugor is a very important point, dominating the northern districts, and holding Bundlecund in check. Jubbulpore is on the main line of communication between the north and south. Its advantages are imperial rather than local. Hoshungabad is in an excellent position, commanding the Nerbudda Valley. The importance of Nagpore, as a Military station, is obvious. Raepore is a somewhat isolated position, commanding the eastern districts and frontiers. Chanda on the main line between Nagpore and Hyderabad is well situated close to the frontier of the Deccan.

Actual reduction of Force.

408. It may be well to recapitulate the reduction of Military force, as shown in this chapter. There have been reduced then (Batteries and Regiments) Regular or Irregular—

	Artillery.	Cavalry.	Infantry.
Regular	1	1	2
Irregular	1	1	3
	2	2	5

With the exception of the one Regular Battery the above reduction comprises entirely Native troops, and must have caused, at least, the discharging of six thousand men.

409. Before closing this chapter, I should mention that a Volunteer Rifle Corps has been formed at Nagpore, numbering about seventy members. It has been inspected by the Brigadier Commanding, and found to be fairly instructed. This result is mainly owing to the persevering exertions of the Commandant, Captain Bolton, (Assistant Commissioner).

Formation of Volunteer Corps.

CHAPTER XIII.

Miscellaneous.

Section 1.—Agriculture and Cotton.

410. There is nothing to distinguish the agriculture of these provinces from that of the rest of India. The irrigation from tanks might be improved in the manner mentioned in the chapter on revenue. Wells and their machinery might be vastly developed. The implements of husbandry are of the same primitive character here as elsewhere. The people are tolerably skilful and industrious, especially the women, but they are quite inferior to the husbandmen of Northern India.

411. The staple products have been mentioned in the introductory chapter. If tea, coffee, or the mulberry, for silk, be introduced anywhere, it must be in the several Sautpoora Hill Districts; it is very desirable that professional enquiry on this head should be made. But for all products improved varieties and superior seeds are needed. With this view an Agri-Horticultural Society for the Central Provinces has been formed at Nagpore after the model of that which has existed in the Punjab. The large garden known as the Maharaj-Bâgh has been placed at the Society's disposal by the Local Committee. The Society is as yet in its infancy. It may, if vigorously managed, do much for the improvement of all sorts of products and plants.

Formation of an Agri-Horticultural Society.

412. But under the head of agriculture the most interesting item is *Cotton*. In 1861 a Report on this subject was called for from the local Officers, and all the data then available were submitted to the Supreme Government in December of that year. The pith of these has been extracted in Mr. Medlicott's Cotton Hand Book for the Bengal Presidency.

413. It will not be necessary to repeat the information there given in detail; but it will accord with the objects of this Report to mention such circumstances as may be of general interest, and may aid in the forming of conclusions regarding the present state and future prospects of cotton in the Central Provinces.

Cotton in the Central Provinces.

414. As stated in the introductory chapter, cotton is grown in all parts of these provinces; but in the northern or central districts the article is generally of second rate quality. The real cotton-growing tracts are the southern districts comprised in the late Nagpore Provinces. It is to the Nagpore cotton, then, that these remarks will be chiefly confined.

415. The introductory chapter contained a geographical account of these tracts in the Nagpore Province which produce the cotton. It is sufficient to state in recapitulation then, that of the three great tracts of cultivation which exist in this Province, two, namely—1st, the Valley of the Wurda, and 2nd, the Plateau of Chutteesghur, do produce cotton; and 3rd, the Valley of the Wyngunga does not, and probably cannot, produce that article.

Produce of the Wurda Valley.

416. At present the main cotton-growing tract is the valley previously described. According to the estimate made in 1861 about 19,361,388 lbs or 134,454 bales* per annum are produced; and about 281,214 acres are under this crop. But these data are uncertain, as the cotton fields have not all been measured up. During the next working season, however, the field measurement of the entire tract will be carried out; and, in the next Report, it will be possible to exhibit an exact statement of the cotton cultivation and of the remaining fields fit for cotton. Nor have any trade statistics been compiled for the several cotton marts. This is, however, now being done; and by the close of the official year it will be possible to present an exact statement of the respective proportions of cotton consumed locally and reserved for exportation.

417. Now as regards the culture of cotton, it is to be remembered that the Valley of the Wurda consists of a flat plain of rich black loam, stretching from the undulating ground inland to the bank of the river. This noble plateau runs along the river for a hundred miles, expanding broadly in the centre, and contracting both to the north and south. The probable area of the plateau may be 3,985 square miles or 2,550,401 acres; and it entirely consist of cotton soil, of excellent quality. In respect to cotton the tract has three known Sub-divisions: I that of Arvee in the north; II that of Deolee in the centre; III that of *Hingun Ghat* to the south. The best cotton is that grown adjacent to, or south of, Hingun Ghat.

Average of cultivation and produce.

418. The estimated amount of land under cotton crops within the whole tract on an average year, is 280,000 acres; and the average annual production at the present time is supposed to be 20,000,000 lbs, or say 140,000 bales. The cultivation is in a transition state and is increasing fast; but, as already explained, there are not as yet complete statistics. It is certain, however, that nearly the whole tract is capable of being cultivated with cotton, and that a portion only as yet is cultivated. That portion cannot be more than one-third of the whole and not less than one-fifth. That it will increase if the present demand should rise or even continue is undoubted. The question then arises—To what extent will such increase be possible? Some Officers of local experience think that the present crop will be increased by one-third, others by one-half.

Other products besides cotton.

419. But while anticipating an increase, I would guard against the supposition that *the whole area* in this neighbourhood, fit for cotton, but occupied actually by other crops, will ever be cultivated with cotton. A considerable portion of the ground must be reserved for the provision of food for men and cattle in this thickly inhabited tract. At present there are three

* The bale has been calculated at 144 lbs.

staples besides cotton; wheat, oilseeds, and *holcus indicus*, millet. The wheat and oilseeds might to *some* extent be superseded by exportation from other parts of the Province, and thus a quantity of land released and made available for cotton. But the millet is of a quality hardly equalled elsewhere, and its flour supplies food to the husbandmen, while the stalk and leaves supply food to the cattle. This must apparently continue to be a staple under any circumstances, and unavoidably occupy a quantity of cotton soil. Then it is believed that the same field will not grow cotton year after year; the crop must be changed by rotation. For this reason, therefore, a quantity of land must be reserved for staples other than cotton.

420. But there is another tract lying somewhat inland,* which has much fine cotton soil, and in which cotton has quite recently begun to be cultivated. An increase in this direction may be anticipated.

The Cotton Marts.

421. The extent to which the production of cotton within the last 20 or 30 years may have increased cannot be known. Hingun Ghat itself has been a cotton mart for upwards of half a century. The mart has *not* increased at all within the last 20 or 30 years, and the culture in its neighbourhood has increased but little. Hingun Ghat, however, though the best known by reason of its long standing, is surpassed by Arvee which has arisen of late years, and will soon be rivalled by Deolee, of even more recent origin. These places have superseded old marts now decayed; but it is certain that there never were any such places as Arvee and Deolee now are. These circumstances may convey some idea of the progress of cotton in this neighbourhood. On an average year the amount brought to each mart would be nearly as follows :—

Arvee	... ...	5,000,000 lbs.
Hingun Ghat	... ...	3,440,000 „
Deolee	... ...	1,720,000 „

Irrigation for Cotton.

422. It is generally believed that the cultivation of cotton cannot be improved by artificial irrigation. But such a supposition does not seem to consist with probability or experience. I would refer to the analysis of the whole question given in the Punjab papers by Mr. D. F. McLeod, the Financial Commissioner. Why should cotton be a solitary exception in the whole range of agricultural produce which invariably benefits by irrigation? Does not cotton suffer frequently from drought? Has it not notoriously so suffered in these provinces during this very last year? I should suppose that cotton must benefit by irrigation if such be rightly applied. That irrigation for cotton should be sub-soil "acting by percolation," as contra-distinguished from super-soil, diffused over the surface of the ground, is probable enough. But that irrigation in some form must be good for cotton seems to me but a rational conclusion. Some cursory enquiries and examination have just been made; and there is reason to hope that dams and watercuts could be constructed in this vicinity.

* Known locally by the names of Oomrair and Chimoor.

423. There are experienced persons and the Native cotton-dealers among them who aver that the present uncertainty of tenure, affecting both the landlord and the cultivator and especially the cultivator, is retarding the culture of cotton. I fear that this may be but too true. The existing defects in the tenures of all kinds have been pointed out in the chapter on land revenue. The earliest practicable remedy will be applied by the settlement operation which will specially be urged on in that tract. And if certainty of tenure both for proprietors and cultivators can give additional impulse to cotton-growing, that impulse shall be imparted within the next few months.

Tenure of land affecting cultivation of Cotton.

424. The proportion of exportation and of local consumption, respectively, out of the aggregate of cotton, is supposed to be not quite equal; that is, about one-third exported and two-thirds locally consumed. The amount annually exported may be estimated at about 7,200,000 lbs. These calculations, however, are not certain; and as already explained, I hope that for this current year statistics may be obtained. Originally, that is forty years ago, the cotton, then known as Hingun Ghat produce, used to be carried by Brinjara carriers down to Masulipatam in the south, and Cuttack in the east. This route was abandoned afterwards when Mirzapore became an emporium and the road was opened in that direction. Then for some time the Nagpore Cotton was exported by Mirzapore alone. But of late years the current has been partly diverted towards Bombay; and at this time about half goes to Mirzapore en-route for Calcutta and half to Bombay. Whether a part shall hereafter go by the Godavery remains to be seen. The conveyance by these several routes has been explained in my Report on railways, roads, and navigation.

Amount of exportation.

425. Of late years the price of cotton has risen enormously: there are dealers who recollect that thirty or forty years ago the price was as low as (14) fourteen Rupees per Bhoja (of 262 lbs), from that the advance was gradual, though certain, to 25, 30 and 40 Rupees. Recently the rate has stood at 50 and 60 Rupees, and is at 70 Rupees at this time of writing. This must have greatly stimulated production. Within the same period, however, and in the same tract, the price of other agricultural produce has risen about three-fold.

Price of Cotton.

426. In respect to cleaning and pressing there are the same defects here as elsewhere. But as this cotton has the longest inland distance of all to traverse, the evil is perhaps more intensely felt here than anywhere. The mishaps and vicissitudes to which consignments of cotton are liable in transit between Nagpore and Bombay or Mirzapore are indeed notorious. The article, loosely packed in bags, with interstices like net work, is not only dirtied and spoilt, but is also tampered with; bad stuff being substituted for good; quantities are also abstracted. It is always admitted that if the cotton were pressed by screw on the spot and then properly packed, it would have immunity from these evils at least. Whatever else may or may not happen, this at all events does seem practicable. Like every other improvement, however plain, its introduction among

Cleaning and pressing.

Natives must be gradual. Already there is a Screw Press to be established at Hingun Ghat by Messrs. Hamilton, Browne and Company of Mirzapore. I have also reported to the Supreme Government on the propriety of setting up Screw Presses at Deolee and Arvee, and also obtaining some machinery for cleaning.

European agency in the production of Cotton.

427. As regards the settlement of Europeans in the Valley of the Wurda there is absolutely *no* culturable waste within that tract on which any new estate could be founded, and it is more than doubtful whether any cultivated land could be purchased. As the proprietary rights of the people are determined at the approaching settlement, land will thereafter become saleable and may legally be purchased by Europeans. But it is not probable that any estates or holdings will be in the market for sale or mortgage.

428. It follows that the only manner in which an European could here engage in the production of cotton would be to arrange with the landholders or cultivators for its being grown by them and delivered to an Agency at or near the spot. Such an Agency could make its own arrangements for cleaning, pressing, packing, and despatching. It certainly seems possible for European merchants *on the spot*, with cash advances and fixed rates offered to the producer, to stimulate indefinitely the production of cotton.

429. As regards foreign seeds no extensive experiments have been made in this respect. During this year the Agent for the Cotton Supply Association obtained a large quantity of Egyptian seed. It did not arrive at Bombay in time for this year's sowing. I have endeavoured by despatching camels to obtain a portion for distribution in the Wurda District *this* season, but the consignment will probably be too late.

Prospect of Cotton in the Wurda Valley.

430. Such, then briefly, are the circumstances of *cotton* in the Valley of the Wurda. The general conclusion is this,—that if the present demand continues or advances, and if the country is well managed, there will be considerable increase to production. Future progress will much depend on the Railway, and perhaps (though not certainly) on the Godavery. Even these great considerations, however, are not immediate. Again much must depend on *private* enterprise, which it is hoped some of the foregoing remarks may serve to guide or encourage. But there are certain things which this Administration *can* do at once, and which I would specify as follows :—

Measures for its encouragement.

1*st*.—To make the cotton roads described in the chapter on roads.

2*nd*.—To test the practicability of Tramways at certain points.

3*rd*.—To project certain works of irrigation.

4*th*.—To make a good settlement of landed tenures.

5*th*.—To set up screw presses and cleaning machinery.

6th.—To distribute foreign seed amongst the people. Too much result must not be anticipated from such measures; but they would conduce somewhat to the general cause of the production of cotton.

Cotton in Chutteesghur.

431. The next point for consideration is the cotton of the Plateau of Chutteesghur described once in the introductory chapter and once in the chapter on roads. In December last the District Officer stated the estimated produce at 36,750,000 lbs. per annum, and the area capable of producing cotton at an enormous extent. These estimates were held to be exaggerated, and there are no data, like the measurement of fields, available to test them. Previously the staples of this highly fertile tract were supposed to be wheat, rice, and oilseeds. Recently the production of cotton has commenced and is fast increasing. But none can truly say, as yet, *how* much land is fit for cotton and to what extent the culture may increase. But probably there will be much land, both waste and cultivated, available. If this be so, then the continuance of the present demand might create a *new cotton field* of indefinite extent.

432. In the chapter on roads, the mode of connecting this district with the navigable head of the Mahanuddy has been explained; also the mode of connecting it with the Railway terminus at Jubbulpore.

433. Cotton is grown and is increasing in the upper Valley of the Mahanuddy itself. To this the same remarks as above are applicable.

434. The navigability of that important river has been touched upon in the chapter on navigation.

Waste land available for cotton.

435. But between both the Plateau of Chutteesghur and the Valley of the Mahanuddy on the one hand, and the Valley of the Wurda on the other, there is one cardinal difference. In the Valley of Wurda there is *no* waste land available, and little or no hope of Europeans being *directly* engaged in the culture of cotton. But in Chutteesghur and in the Valley of the Mahanuddy *vast quantities of waste land are available*, from which fine estates might be carved out by European settlers. Some part, perhaps much, of which would produce cotton. There is indeed room for great hope in this respect.

436. Here, as in the Wurda District, many of the results hoped for must, at the best, be ulterior. Much again must depend on private enterprise; but here also there are certain things which *this* Administration can do at once, and which I would specify as follows:—

Measures for encouraging Cotton in Chutteesghur.

1st.—To make the road from Raepore (Capital of Chutteesghur) to Sonepore, the navigable head of Mahanuddy.

2nd.—To make a good settlement of the landed tenures.

3rd.—To investigate, in an exact and comprehensive manner, *all* the land available for cotton, culturable or waste; to measure up the cultivated land of villages, and

after allotting to them all the waste which they can lawfully claim or reasonably require, to mark off the waste in lots; and to advertise large estates which might be suitable for European grantees.

437. The final and general conclusion is, that the *old* cotton field on the Wurda may be increased to a certain extent; and that a *new* cotton field in Chutteesghur and on the Mahanuddy may be created.

Fibrous substances.

438. These provinces are not remarkable for the production of fibrous substances.

Hemp.

439. The sunn or Indian hemp, (crotolaria juncea), grows more or less every where; but the best is produced in Chutteesghur. It is thence sent for export to Calcutta *vid* Jubbulpore and Mirzapore. It is highly esteemed for its colour and for the length and strength of its fibre. The superior plant cannabis sativa has been grown with success at Jubbulpore.

Linseed and flax.

440. The linseed plant is grown largely in the Wurda Valley and in Chutteesghur; the oilseed obtained from it is valuable and is easily exported. As is well known, the fibre of its stem produces flax. But it is much more difficult to raise the plant for its fibre than for its seeds; as yet the people seem unwilling to cultivate it for the sake of its fibre, as this process involves much care in the culture. For such cultivation, however, the Chutteesghur Plateau is probably the most favorable locality in these provinces.

SECTION II.—EUROPEAN COLONIZATION.

441. This subject has been touched upon in the chapter on land revenue, (paragraph 205). It was there explained that, in order to counterbalance the disadvantages of isolation and remoteness, it would be necessary to make grants of land on more than ordinarily favorable terms.

Waste land in Wurda Valley.

442. In the Nagpore Province itself the open country is healthy; but then it is already occupied by the native landholders and cultivators. The waste there will be found in scattered patches only in which the people possess rights, or which are required for pasturage. This is particularly the case in the cotton ground of the Wurda, and in the upper Valley of the Wyngunga. In the Districts then of Nagpore and Nachiagaon (Wurda) there does not appear any chance of grants being made.

In Chutteesghur and Sumbulpore.

443. But in parts of the Chanda and Bhundara Districts, and especially in the Chutteesghur and Sumbulpore Districts, there are virgin tracts of great extent without any pre-existing rights or interests and without any complications, in which a perfect tenure could be lawfully accorded to an European grantee. In Chutteesghur and Sumbulpore cotton-growing estates

might, it is hoped, be founded by Europeans. The capabilities of these tracts for cotton have been mentioned in the chapter on that subject.

In the Sautpoora Hill Districts.

444. In a portion of the Sautpoora Range there are fine tracts where excellent waste is available, and where no pre-existing rights or interests are found, and where no complication would be met with. In these regions the climate will generally be good. In the upland portion of the Mundla District, especially near the Amerkuntuk Plateau, and on the valleys near it, the climate is cool, perhaps even delightful; and if the ground were fairly cleared, would be salubrious. The soil is fertile and suitable for all kinds of products. But then the position is more than ordinarily isolated and remote, and that is a great disadvantage. The low land portion of Mundla would not be salubrious. If the culture of tea and coffee, and silk could be introduced into the Sautpoora Hills (as some think it may), then suitable places for European settlers could be found in localities esteemed healthy.

In the Nerbudda Valley.

445. In the central Valley of the Nerbudda, in the Nursingpore and Jubbulpore Districts, there will be the same bar as in the Valley of the Wurda; that is, all the best land is already occupied or owned. But in the lower Valley, within the Hoshungabad District, there is much waste, free from all existing rights and interests. The climate is reported to be insalubrious, but this has again been denied. The general situation of this tract is favorable, being near the line of Railway to Bombay. The locality west of Hoshungabad is most promising.

In the Godavery District.

446. Lastly, the local Authorities consider that tracts, to any extent, are obtainable on the left, or British, bank of the Godavery. *At present* the climate is insalubrious.

Insalubrity of climate.

447. But in all these cases the first practical difficulty is the insalubrity of the climate. It does not seem possible for a European grantee to reside with safety to health on an estate in any of those tracts where the best waste is available. But if he is able to collect cultivators and tenants, and to maintain a native Agent on the spot, then there are stations sufficiently near and eligible for residence. For example, an European landholder residing at Sumbulpore, or Raepore, or Seroncha, might, perhaps, hold large estates 50 miles or so distant.

Scarcity of labor.

448. The next difficulty is the provision of labor, which will be felt in all the localities above indicated. But it would not be insuperable here, any more than elsewhere. If capital be invested, inducements would soon arise to attract labor from great distances. Public works are now largely carried on with foreign workmen, and private capitalists would enjoy at least equal advantage in this respect. For an estate on the Godavery, labor might be got from the Coast districts. In Eastern Nagpore and Sumbulpore, from the

North-West Frontier of Bengal. In Hoshungabad, from Malwa. In Mundla, labor has even been procured from Hindostan.

Want of communication.

449. The third difficulty is that of communication, or in other words the conveyance of produce to market. This can and (it may be hoped) will be overcome. The chapter on roads will have explained fully this part of the subject. Suffice it here to say that a grantee on the banks of the Godavery might hope for water carriage; in Chutteesghur, for a road to the Mahanuddy; in Mundla, for a road to the Railway at Jubbulpore. In the Hoshungabad District he would have the rail close at hand.

Suitable localities for grants.

450. The conclusion is, that while existing rights and interest would mostly bar European grantees from the Central Nerbudda Valley, and from the Valleys of the Wurda and Wyngunga (these tracts comprise the Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore and part of the Chanda Districts); on the other hand, in the Valleys of the Godavery and the Mahanuddy, and the lower Nerbudda Valley, in the Chutteesghur Plateau; in the uplands of Mundla, and in parts of the Sautpoora range; there are large, sometimes boundless, tracts of waste, free as air from every difficulty and complication, which might be taken up. These available tracts are in the Civil Districts of Raepore, Sumbulpore, Seroncha, Mundla, Chindwarra and Hoshungabad, and parts of Chanda and Bhundara. In these districts extensive applications have already been made, and in a short time it may be hoped that grants will be duly arranged. Two Companies for clearing the waste are in contemplation: if they should be formed, great results will follow.

Importance of European settlement.

451. It is difficult in a general Report to do justice to this subject, so full of interest and hope for the future. With European capital and enterprise it may be possible for the axe and the plough to invade the ancient dominion of the forest and the prarie. Without this, however, there is little chance that the natives of the country can battle with the difficulties of the wilderness. It is by private effort, rather than by public measures, that this result can be compassed. But there are two things which this Administration can do in furtherance of the cause, and which will, it is hoped, be done without fail. *First*, to secure a perfect title in eligible localities without delay or trouble, according to the Resolution of the Supreme Government of 17th October 1861. *Second*, to open out roads, both main and branch, in the neighbourhood of any extensive tracts that may be taken up for European settlement.

SECTION III.

Forests.

Classification of Forests.

452. The forests of these provinces have been generally alluded to in the introductory chapters. They may admit of topographical division into four groups:—*First*, there are the Hills to the north of Saugor; *Second*, those in the Sautpoora Range; *Third*, those in the centre of the Nagpore Province; *Fourth*, those of the south near the Godavery. There must, doubtless

be others in the eastern part of the Nagpore Province and in the hills near the Mahanuddy; but nothing specific is yet known of such. The rivers here are not always conveniently situated to convey freights of timber from the mountains down to the plains. Still our rivers do yet play their part in this great work. The Nerbudda, the Wurda, the Kanhan, the Bagh, the Indrawuttee, the Selree, and, lastly, the great Godavery itself, all carry logs to the neighbourhood of the timber marts. But inland carriage has often to be used for the conveyance of timber.

Principal kinds of trees.

453. There are four kinds of trees valuable for timber—1*st*, the Teak; 2*nd*, the Saul; 3*rd*, the Saj; 4*th*, the Eynee. Besides these, there are a variety of minor trees, among which the most notable is the bamboo.

The Teak Forests.

454. The teak is not found north of the Nerbudda, nor in the Sautpoora Range. But it is, or has been, abundant in the centre and south of the Nagpore Province. The girt and length of the trees are considerable, the former being often 6 feet, and the latter 100 feet. For many years past great quantities of teak have been exported from the districts of Bustar and the Godavery by being floated down that river. In 1860-61, owing to the abolition of transit duties and the greater confidence in the security of life and property after the cession of the Godavery Talooks by the Nizam, no less than 24 to 25,000 logs were exported by this route; much of this, however, was under-aged, and measures have been taken to put a stop to a practice which, although it has existed for many years, would shortly, under present circumstances, if unchecked, lead to the utter destruction of these forests. The teak forests in the centre, being comparatively near to the capital, have been worked for many years; and when the streams, feeders of the Wyngunga, were flooded, there was water carriage available. The timber for all the buildings in Nagpore and Kamptee has, for many years, been drawn from these forests, and the consumption has been very great. No arrangements for conservation were made at the time; and these once fine forests are now nearly exhausted, and reproduction must be very slow, or perhaps may be beyond hope. The teak in the south is equally fine and abundant; but many of the best forests were situated in the strip of territory along the left bank of the Godavery, which, until a very recent date, belonged to the Nizam of the Deccan. The forests were accordingly leased out, under His Highness' Government, to some timber merchants (Native) for the supply of the Hyderabad market, where the demand has been great for many years. These forests again have been nearly exhausted, as no arrangements whatever, for conservation, were made. Thus it is that, at this moment, the really productive teak forests are limited to a few tracts near the Indrawuttee river and one tract near the Wurda. The former is comparatively inaccessible, the latter is estimated to contain not more than 15,000 logs. Arrangements have now been made to preserve the scanty remnant of the teak forests of Nagpore.

The Saul tree.

455. The saul (of considerable girt and length) grows in the greatest abundance in the Districts of the Sautpoora Range, and in south-western parts; but it is also found, more or less, in all the wooden tracts, north and south. Some of the forests have been largely used; but many still

exist of great richness and are still untouched. These will now be preserved. Quantities of this wood have been used for the Railway.

The Saj tree.

456. The saj grows chiefly in the districts of the Sautpoora Range, and in the other forests generally. The trees grow to a considerable height, and have not yet been worked up. This wood, also, will be useful for the Railway. The Byja saul falls within the same category.

The Bamboo.

457. The bamboo grows in extensive masses in the northern parts of the Nagpore Province, beneath the Sautpoora hills and towards the Godavery.

Department formed for conservation of forests.

458. For the conservation of forests in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories a Department was organized some years ago, and great benefit has accrued therefrom. Its head quarters are fixed in the Puchmarree hills in the Sautpoora Range. In the Nagpore Province conservancy rules were issued at the close of 1861 and during the summer and winter of this year a complete enquiry has been made into all the forest tracts of central and southern Nagpore; the eastern part remaining still for enquiry. These proceedings have clearly shewn which particular forests are worth preserving; and the requisite orders regarding them have been issued to the District Authorities.

459. The names of Captains Pearson and Stewart will be duly introduced at the end of this Report; but I cannot conclude this section without stating, that to their efforts are mainly due whatever is known of, or has been done for, the forests of the Central Provinces.

SECTION IV.—MINERAL RESOUCES.

460. This subject has been touched upon in the introductory chapter. But its importance merits a more detailed notice than could be afforded in a general introduction. For the information which is now about to be furnished, I am indebted mainly to the Reverend Stephen Hislop, Missionary of the Free Church of Scotland at Nagpore, a gentleman who has not only devoted himself to the moral improvement of the people for the last seventeen years, but has contributed much to that physical knowledge on which material improvement so much depends.

Geological formation.

461. It is necessary to prefuce this information by a summary of the principal Geological formations in the Central Provinces. These are divisible into two main divisions, one north and one south of the Nerbudda, the river itself being generally the boundary line.

North of the Nerbudda.

462. The Geology north of the Nerbudda, if we except the prolongation of the Sautpoora Range beyond that river, is very simple. The great plateau on which Saugor stands rests on CRYSTALLINE SCHISTS, which are seen cropping out in the plains on the north and in the Valley of

the Nerbudda in the south. The table land itself is composed merely of a series of strata which Dr. Oldham has designated VINDHYAN, and which consist of red gritty sandstones with lower bed of SHALE and flagstones, destitute, so far as yet known, of organic remains. The sandstones are overlaid on the west by extensive flows of trap, in which are enclosed a deposit with fresh water shells and stems of palms, as at Saugor, through a similar STRATUM with the same species of shells and the VERTEBRA of animals occurs *under* the trap at Narrainpore to the south of that station. This deposit is regarded by Mr. Hislop as the upper member of his Tuklee series which he assigns to the lowest EOCENE age. The metamorphic rocks of the Nerbudda Valley are, for the most part, concealed under a great thickness of alluvium, which in its older strata is rich in the bones of huge PACHYDERMATA, and on the surface affords bounteous harvests of grain, pulse, and oil seeds.

Vindhyan Strata.

463. The structure of the country south of the Nerbudda, including the portion of the Sautpoora above referred to, is somewhat more complicated. Here we have the same CRYSTALLINE ROCKS as in the north, and like them exposed in several of the river basins. Thus they are found cropping out on the River MACHNA near Baitool, on the River COLBIRA near Chindwarra, and along the course of the Rivers Kunhan and Pech, after they descend from the SIRESHANDREE step of the Sautpoora Hills. But the largest exposure of these rocks begins in the Valley of the Bangur, at its confluence with the Nerbudda, and running south with an average breadth of 100 miles follows the course of the Wyngunga (properly Wun Gunga, the Forest river) till its junction with the Wurda, when it turns east covering the greater part of Bustar, and then north-east reaching to Sumbulpore.

Formations south of the Nerbudda.

464. It is a striking fact that the VINDHYAN series which stretches like a wall along the north bank of the Nerbudda, has nothing to correspond with it in the Sautpoora Hills on the south bank. But probably this formation is to be seen much farther south in small ranges running north and south in the Chanda District, and parallel to the east bank of the Pranheeta and Godavery. These hills, composed of reddish INDURATED sandstone, generally rise from a METAMORPHIC area, and though they appear on the whole flat-topped, yet gradually rise towards the south, where they end in a bluff towering precipice, surmounting a sloping TALUS.

Geological character of the Sautpoora Range.

465. To compensate for the want, or rare occurrence, of the Vindhyan in the Southern Division, we here meet with a group of rocks styled the "Lower Damoodas" by the Geological Survey. This series is not known in the Northern Division except at the base of the northern slope of that section of the Sautpoora Range, called the Meikul Hills, which, though north of the Nerbudda, are more naturally connected with the Geology of the South; but south of the Nerbudda the series appears at various points, at the base of the Sautpoora Hills; on the south bank of the Nerbudda they occur in various tributaries of this river, especially the Seeta, Riva, the Tawa, and the Muchna. At Oomrait near

Lower Damooda group of rocks.

Chindwarra on a small affluent of the Pech, which finds its way by the Godavery to the Bay of Bengal, and at Kooiba on the Husda a tributary of the great Mahanuddy (and situate on the extreme North-East Frontier of these provinces) the same beds have been discovered. They belong to the coal measures of India, and are distinguished by a preponderance of simple pounded forms.

466. Overlying these in several localities both north and south of the Nerbudda are other strata yielding coal, though of an inferior quality, with plants allied to cycas and cypress in their characteristic fossils.

Maladeva Rocks.

467. More extensively spread are the Maladeva rocks which form the great mass of the Puchmurree Hills, and run with interruptions in a south-easterly direction through the Nagpore and Chanda Districts towards the Godavery. They contain a few stones and are remarkable for bands of coarse iron ore, passing irregulary through them, this age is supposed to be upper CRETACEOUS. Above these are found the beds which have been called the Taklee series which follow the same course along the northern face of the Sautpoorus as the CARBONACEOUS STRATA. They also occur in the Nagpore and Chanda Districts, and it is believed that much of the open country of Chutteesghur is composed of them. They include sandstone, RED SHALES, ARGILLACEOUS LIMESTONE, and green and purplish clays, as well as the INTERTRAPPEAN STRATUM before alluded to, which in various parts of the country has embedded a great variety of fresh water shells, and at Taklee near Nagpore many interesting seeds and fruits.

The Trap Rocks.

468. The trap which commences at Amurkuntuk and forms the Plateau of the Meikul Hills at Jubbulpore, crosses the Nerbudda, and constitutes the table land of Seonee, Chindwarra and Baitool, and finally descending into the plains covers the western and larger portion of the district of Nagpore whence it extends uninterruptedly to the coast at Bombay. The trap as well as the METAMORPHIC rocks are in many tracts overlaid by that peculiar sort of iron-clay called laterite.

The Iron ores.

469. It is in the CRYSTALLINE SCHISTS which lie at the base of our Geological scale, and in this laterite which occurs at the top that iron ore is found. To the age of the former belongs the ore of Punaghur and of Dhurmpoora near Lamata Ghat in the Nerbudda, both near Jubbulpore, which may yield about 50 per cent. of iron. The same kind of ore, though not worked, and not likely to be so for a long time, is met with in the Beila Deela Hills of Bustar. A reformation of it is extracted from the mines near Tendukhera on the north bank of the Nerbudda, where the average percentage of pure metal is believed to be 50, and at Agaria and Jaolee, north east of Jubbulpore, where it is said to be 60. SPECULAR iron ore occurs also abundantly in the METAMORPHIC rocks of the Chanda District, and is dug at Dewulgaum, three miles from the east bank of the Wyngunga, at the foot of a hill named Khandeshur in the Chanda District, which rises to a height of 200 feet above the level

In the Valley of the Wyngunga.

of the plain, and is richly charged with metal. Some of the best specimens picked up below are partially magnetic, and may contain not less than 72 per cent. of iron. In the same neighbourhood similar ores are worked at Bhanpore, Goongwye, and Lohara within 12 miles of the west bank of the Wyngunga, and at Metapar and Ogulpet which are situated at a greater distance. At Ambajirree and other villages situated in the Chandpore Pergunnah, north-east of Nagpore and near the Wyngunga, laterite ore is smelted, but of course it is not so rich in iron as those last mentioned.

The Iron Mines of Tendukhera near the Nerbudda.

470. In the Nerbudda Territory the best locality for more extensive operations would appear to be Tendukhera, or more correctly speaking Oomerpanee, where the smelting of the ore, which is by no means refractory, may be aided by a limestone flux brought down the river, and where, when the jungle should fail to afford a supply of fuel, Seeta River coal is procurable at a distance of 30 miles, while the site of the furnaces is only about four miles from the north bank of the river, and 15 from the line of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway on the south bank. On the whole this is by far the most favorable locality within the Central Provinces for European enterprise in this branch. It is probably destined to future greatness.

471. Other favorable localities are Agaria and Jaolee near Jubbulpore, where the ore is rich in metal, the jungle adjacent and extensive, and within a convenient distance of the extension of the East Indian Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore.

Iron in the Valley of the Wyngunga.

472. In the Chanda District the Dewulgaum furnaces on one bank of the Wyngunga, and those of Lohara, &c., on the other, are worthy of attention. At these the ore, which is of the richest description, has long been smelted with the charcoal from the extensive jungles around them; and notwithstanding the imperfect mode in which the manufacture is conducted, considerable quantities of iron are produced, which are carried by bullocks to great distances. It is believed that the jungle, when properly conserved, would furnish enough fuel for works of some importance. A flux can be procured from the banks of the Penheeta into which the Wyngunga flows; and if the navigation of the Godavery be improved, as at present proposed, a cheap means of conveyance will be afforded for the iron to the East Coast. Should the ores of these localities be worked to any large extent, there would be little need of that obtained from the laterite, which is preferred by the Natives simply on account of its softness, and its greater adaptation to their capabilities. On the whole this neighbourhood is a tract of great interest and promise.

Red Ochre Pigment.

473. However, this formation would still be valuable from its FURNISHING the useful pigment red ochre, or ruddle; this is extracted, of very excellent quality, from the quarries of Mundunpore and Thakeertola on the west of the Raepore District.

474. Allied to the iron ores above described is the black oxide of MANGANESE at Satuck, Koomaree, Biroli near Bhoora, and on the Lanjee Goodwa Hills, which lie in nearly a straight line drawn to the north-east from Nagpore to the Bungur River.

Manganese.

475. In the Seonee District, within the Sautpoora Range, iron ore is found in several places. In the Kutunghee Pergunnah near the foot of the Sautpoora Range, and near the borders of the Bundarra District, it is found in large quantities in the lands of a village called "Lohá Agree." This iron is much valued for its softness and malleability. It is found in small quantities in the Dongurea Talookas south-west of Seonee, about 12 or 14 miles. But all over the Durasee Talookas the hills which form the edge or margin of the Seonee Plateau, and distant from 12 to 20 miles from Seonee in a south and south-easterly direction, great quantities of iron are to be found. The ore is worked out after the native fashion by a class of people called "Agree" chiefly at the villages of Ambaghur, Pukhan, Dulall, Durasee, Moondapar. In almost all the beautiful valleys, between these hills, are streams which, without, artificial appliances, are running all the year round; and which might, with judicious damming, and an arrangement of reservoirs and inclines with sluice gates (as in the Dohra Doon Canal) might be turned to great account for motive power. And in the same neighbourhood there is a rich abundance of low forest, whence fuel could be supplied. The quality of the Durasee ore has not been definitely ascertained. If it should prove good, then the advantages on the spot, in respect to fuel and motive power, would be considerable. And the locality is only 12 miles distant from the main road from Nagpore to Jubbulpore. In several parts of the Lucnadown Pergunnah, near Chupara, Guneshgunge, and in other places, iron is found, but it is chiefly lateritic.*

Iron in the Seonee District.

* Iron is also produced in the Lanjhee Hills, and in the villages near Sahnugurree, in the Bhundara District; it is very useful for local consumption, but it is also of a lateritic character.

476. In the same direction gold is washed from the sands of the Soane River near Lanjee, and another tributary of the Wyngunga near Thuroora. It is also found near Purtabpore and in the Kotree River, in Bustar; and at Heerakond in the Mahanuddy, not far from Sumbulpore. At all these places the Natives do not earn more than a bare subsistence; but whether the washing would prove more remunerative by a more systematic mode of operation it is difficult to pronounce.

477. It is unnecessary here to refer to the diamond washings at Heerakond, as they have been frequently described in several publications. The only other locality in the Central Provinces, where this gem has been discovered, is Wyraghur in the Chanda District, where in former days it was washed out of a laterite grit. An inferior kind of CORUNDUM is obtained from Pohora in the Sahangurree Pergunnah. Potstone is cut into vessels at Deonee near Rampeylee and at Biroli near Thuroora, both in the Bhundarra District, and at Jumbool Ghat in that of Chanda. In the softer form of STEATITE it is to be met with at the Rajadhar Pass in the Sautpoora Hills between Raepore and Mundla.

Diamond Mines.

Coal in the Central Provinces.

478. The coal of the Central Provinces would appear to have been exaggerated, both in regard to quantity and quality. That which is procured from the upper CARBONACEOUS STRATA, with remain of CYCADICAE is scarcely worth the expense of digging; but that which is obtained from the "Lower Damooda" beds, if proper attention be paid to the selection of sites for works, may turn out to be of considerable economic importance. The best of all the Nerbudda localities seems to be *Mopanee* on the Seta River, where the four Seams give an aggregate of 20 feet of coal. This place is in the hands of an European Company, and seems destined (like Tendookera) to future greatness; and where the Railway, passing within 10 miles of the north of it, will not only create a demand for its own purposes but also afford facilities of transport to the towns, and iron works along the line. At Kotree near Shahpore (situate between Nursingpore and Hoshungabad), the coal is not so abundant, and the place is about 20 miles further south of the line; still this village by means of a Tramway would form a useful addition to the other supply. Rawundeo on the Tawa River, as described by Mr. J. G. Medlicott, promises well both in quality and quantity; the only disadvantage being that it is 10 miles south of Shahpore. This additional distance, however, would only require a prolongation of the Shahpore Tramway to that extent, as from that town to the Railway both the Kotree and Rawundeo minerals would be carried along the same road. The coal near Oomrait, which lies close to the surface with a very slight dip, has already been begun to be mined by Mr. Stanbrough; but though in horizontal extent it may be equal to that found at the three localities above named, yet in thickness it is not to be compared, being confined apparently to a single seam of one foot, and that too far removed from the course of traffic. The Koorba coal field, on the extreme north-east frontier, has not yet been examined.

The Mopanee Coal fields near the Nerbudda.

Coal at Oomrait.

SECTION V.—SURVEY.

Existing means of Geographical information.

479. For the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories generally, except Mundla, the available topographical information is generally good. For the western parts of the Nagpore Province, what is known as Norris' Survey, made many years ago under Mahratta rule, is very useful and complete. But for eastern, central and southern parts of Nagpore and for Sumbulpore, there is an utter want of reliable survey. As regards the southern parts of Nagpore, our general topographical information has been much improved during the last season by the visits of Captains Stewart and Glasfurd.

Various surveys in progress.

480. The Revenue Survey was commenced in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories during 1853-54. It was interrupted in 1857 but has been since resumed. It has been completed in the Jubbulpore and Nursingpore Districts; half finished in the Saugor Division; for the other districts it is not yet commenced. In the Nagpore Province it has been completed for Nagpore and Bhundarra Districts, but not commenced in the other districts. This

survey marks the boundaries of villages and estates, and supplies details of cultivated and waste lands, and is a complete and excellent work. It will be very desirable that the topographical Survey party, now working in the Berar Hills, should extend their operations to those hills in the Baitool and Chindwarra Districts, which might be made available for European Sanataria and Settlements.

Geological Survey.

481. The operations of the Geological Survey of India (chiefly conducted by Messrs. J. G. Medlicott and William Theobald, Junior) have extended over the Vyndhya Range, the Nerbudda Valley, and the northern face of the Sautpoora Range, and full accounts have been published. Of the southern face of the Sautpoora Range and of the Nagpore Province there has been no regular Geological Survey. Previously to the Geological Survey the mineral resources of the Nerbudda had been examined by Messrs. Blackwell and Jacob.

SECTION VI.—FAIRS.

Places where the principal fairs are now held.

482. Among the best means for increasing internal trade, and with it civilization, for arousing a spirit of progress by interchange and intercourse; and for improving breeds of useful cattle in the interior; is the establishment of annual fairs at seasons suitable to the holidays and festivals of the people. In these provinces, as elsewhere, the people are naturally disposed to favor such institutions. In regions like these, too, numbers of ignorant and half civilized people, from wild and remote districts, repair to these occasional fairs and derive much improvement thereby. Already four celebrated fairs are held on the banks of the Nerbudda, one near the Marble Rocks of Jubbulpore, one near Nursingpore, (an account of which has been published in the *Government Gazette*), one at Gurrakota, and one near Hoshungabad. All these have largely increased under British rule. Other fairs are also held, one on the banks of the Wyngunga in the Sautpoora Hills, one in the Chutteesghur Plateau, one on the banks of the Wurda, near the Cotton mart of Arvee, and one near Chanda. All these may be vastly improved and extended, to the great benefit of the people, by the easy and beneficial exercise of official influence. An enquiry is making through all the District Officers with a view to the establishment of additional fairs. At two places especially, namely, the sacred Ramteck Hill near Nagpore, and the famous Plateau of Mooltye (in the Baitool District), where the fountain source of the River Taptee springs from the ground, it may be possible to establish fairs of great dimensions for the merchandize, produce, and cattle of the surrounding districts. It is hoped that the next year's Report may shew some increase to these useful institutions throughout the Central Provinces.

Mode of extending these Institutions.

SECTION VII.—CARRIAGE AND SUPPLIES.

Impressment of labor and carriage.

483. In provinces like these, thinly populated, deficient in capital, and backward in enterprise, and yet having troops, travellers and public departments to be provided for, the supply of labor and

carriage must be a subject of anxiety. Heretofore the seizure of bearers, laborers, carts and bullocks, at the principal stations and along all the main lines of road, has been common, and for the most part has been carried on under authority exercised through the Police, or the Revenue Officials, and often by private travellers and individuals. At some places, such as Nagpore, Jubbulpore, palanquin bearers can really be got for hire without any pressure; but at few other places does this advantage exist? Laborers, carts and bullocks are probably pressed everywhere. The impressment system here, as elsewhere, is called by the well known name of "Begâr." In these provinces it is a matter of loud and universal complaint among the people. In these provinces, however, the evils resulting are three-fold,—1st, labor is abstracted from its proper sphere, and loss to agriculture and traffic ensues; 2nd, the labor so abstracted is not, and cannot be, remunerated; 3rd, the authorities, finding that urgent need is temporarily supplied, are tempted to defer the more difficult work of introducing radical reform.

Evils of that system.

484. The moral wrong involved in the continuance of this, under a civilized Government, is too obvious to require further mention. That the system is not of British creation, and was bequeathed to us by the Native Government, may be true, but that cannot furnish a really valid excuse. On the other hand, *until* some local means and resources shall be found, it is difficult to prohibit absolutely this unfortunate system; and the prohibition, if issued, would not be effectual. European Officers and travellers in these provinces must, by some means or other, be provided for; often too, Military requirements are imperative, and it is difficult to prevent public departments from abusing authority where the need or the temptation is great.

485. It has also been one of the recognized duties of the Police to procure *supplies* for travellers of all classes. This system, if it do not lead to downright oppression, is, nevertheless, open to much abuse and is demoralizing to all concerned.

486. The first step in reform has been the absolute prohibition to the new Constabulary against the seizure of labor and carriage, and the procuring of supplies. The Police may give information regarding supplies and may assist in obtaining carriage for European travellers on prepayment of a really fair price; but the employment of force is forbidden. There seems to be no doubt that this prohibition is operative and is attended to by the Police. The next step will be the further prohibition to the Police against any interference, even to the above limited extent.

Police prohibited from interfering.

487. But the real remedy which can *alone* prove effectual is the provision of local supply, and resources in labor and carriage. At present, with the exception above noted, none such exist. The plan so successfully adopted in the Punjab will equally succeed here. Let Headmen and Contractors be appointed at every station, great and small; some undertaking to furnish bearers and laborers; some to furnish carts. Let these men be appointed

Appointment of Headmen and Contractors.

with the sanction and countenance of the District Authorities. Let them charge at rates which experience may shew to be really remunerative in the existing state of the market. And let them be rewarded by a small commission on all they supply, to be paid by the party supplied. Such men will gradually collect and attract a sufficient supply of labor and carriage. As private individuals they cannot force, they must induce; and the only effective inducement will be the offer of good wages. Orders have been now issued to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, and arrangements are set on foot for the establishment of these Headmen and Contractors everywhere. This done, it is hoped that all legitimate requirements will be met, and oppression put an end to. But prices will rise—an unvitable result, which is not, however, on the whole to be regretted.

SECTION VIII.—POPULATION.

488. On this subject also there are really no reliable statistics. Estimates have indeed been made from time to time, but no census has ever been taken in these Provinces. In point of fact, however, the taking of a census in such provinces as these by any procedure that could be adopted for that purpose might prove a delicate matter; and if it were done at all, a suitable opportunity should be watched for. The present time does not seem to me to be quite a fitting one for this purpose. In the meantime, however, the progress of the Settlement will afford excellent means of calculating the agricultural population, without creating the least alarm or surprise among the people. This done, it might be practicable to take a census in the towns. At all events, within a brief period, the number of houses can be reckoned up, and from that the aggregate of the population could be assumed with a fair degree of certainty. At this moment I can only state that for the Nagpore Province, including Bustar, the population has been estimated at between four and five millions; and the population of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories at three millions and more. Then the population of Sumbulpore and its dependencies are supposed to be half a million. Altogether the total population of these provinces is assumed at nine millions or something under.

Absence of Statistics at present.

Mode of preparing such future.

SECTION IX.—TRADE STATISTICS.

489. The entire absence of reliable statistics regarding trade and production has been more than once alluded to in the preceding pages of this Report. No such statistics have as yet been prepared, or attempted to be prepared, in these provinces, although there are many pressing questions, the solution of which might be assisted by data of this kind; in some cases the returns of the Octroi recently established may supply some information. But even this would be very incomplete and insufficient for any important purpose. Arrangements are now being made, chiefly through the existing Civil machinery, for the collection and collation of the statistics of trade and traffic in all the towns and cities, and in all the main lines of road throughout these provinces; so that some statistical returns of general value may be available.

Absence of Statistics.

Measures taken for their preparation in future.

SECTION X.—HISTORICAL REMAINS.

Architectural ruins and buildings in the Central Provinces.

490. There are historical remains scattered all over these provinces belonging apparently to Rajpoot Gond dynasties, mentioned in the introductory chapter, or to the Hindoo dynasties which preceded them. There are scarcely any Mahomedan remains. The most remarkable of the Hindoo architectural specimens are those at Ramnuggur near Mundla; at Jubbulpore; at Bhera Ghaut, near the Marble Rocks; at Chowraghur in the Nursingpore District; at Rahutghur in the Saugor District; and at Kheela in the Baitool District; at Ghunsore in the Seonee District; at Deoghur in the Chindwarra District; at Ramteek and Katolee in the Nagpore District; at Ruttunpore in the Belaspore District; at Chanda, Ballarpore and Bhanduk in the Chanda District; at Budrachellum on the Godavery; in the heart of the wilderness of the Bastar State. Many of these valuable and interesting ruins have been much neglected; but the District Officers have now been required to have the old buildings within their respective districts properly cared for, and watchmen entertained for that purpose at the expense of the Local Funds.

SECTION XI.—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Civil Surgeons.

491. The Medical arrangements throughout these provinces are now complete. There are Civil Surgeons, Commissioned Officers, at 16 Civil Stations including the proposed Sanatarium of Muthoor; the remaining two stations Nachengaon and Belaspore having Apothecaries. The presence of these Officers greatly tends to mitigate the disadvantages of residence in remote stations, and thus adds strength to the Civil administration.

Charitable Dispensaries.

492. At all these stations Charitable Dispensaries have been either established or recommended. For the few remaining to be founded propositions have been recently submitted. Buildings have been provided, and subordinate Medical establishments entertained. Native patients, or others applying for either medicines or medical treatment, receive such gratuitously. And a limited number of several cases are treated in-doors: the patients being accommodated in the building. Many of these Dispensaries have not yet reached their full growth in usefulness. The figures given below will show approximately the relief afforded within the past year 1861:—

Their results.

	Out-door.	In-door.	Male.	Female.
Nagpore ...	4,449	435	4,243	641
Raepore ...	6,087	868	5,349	1,101
Chanda ...	1,030	315	1,115	230
Chandwarra ...	1,096	169	1,072	193
Bhundara ...	2,059	251	1,787	523
Kaota ...	385	26	343	68
Belaspore ...	1,037	13	808	242

	Out-door.	In-door.	Male.	Female.
Hoshungabad...	510	15	...	...
Saugor ...	8,297	208	...	...
Jubbulpore ...	8,065	557	...	...
Nursingpore ...	700	167	...	...

493. The annual cost of these Dispensaries amounted to Rupees 14,941 in the year 1861, of which Rupees 1,910 were defrayed by private subscription and the remainder by the State. This expenditure will fall at the rate of 7½ annas per head per annum on the aggregate of patients. Besides the physical benefits conferred by these institutions, their moral influence is considerable in wild and half civilized places, such as many of these districts are. Rude and timid tribes, when seeking relief from the severe ailments to which they are liable, are brought within the influence of conciliation and taught to emerge from the retreats of barbarism.

494. In the Nagpore City an additional hospital is being built by the public spirited contribution of Dr. Hende the Civil Surgeon, and Rao Bensee Lall Abeerchund the Banker.

Vaccinators.

495. Vaccination generally has not been successful in these Provinces, partly owing to the prejudices of the people, and partly no doubt to defects in the operation itself. The following figures will show the number of persons vaccinated during the year 1861 :—

	No. vaccinated.	Successful.
Saugor	466	... 321
Jubbulpore	1,329	... 949
Hoshungabad	1	... 1
Nagpore	1,395	... 1,231
Raepore	480	... 374
Chanda	26	... 0
Chindwara	109	... 73
Bhundara	1,454	... 1,255
Total ...	5,260	... 4,204

CHAPTER XIV.

Conclusion.

496. It remains to mention or bring to the notice of the Supreme Government, the names of those Officers who have played a good or a distinguished part in the administration of the territories now included in the Central Provinces.

497. It would not be proper for me to mention, particularly, the names of Colonel W. C. Erskine, who was Commissioner of the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories

from 1853 to 1861; or of Mr. G. Plowden, who was Commissioner of the late Nagpore Province from 1855 to 1859; or of Colonel E. K. Elliot, who held that office from 1859 to 1861, was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces in December of that year, and proceeded to Europe on Medical furlough in March 1862. The services of these Officers are, doubtless, well known to Government. But I crave permission to record my sense of the cordial aid and co-operation afforded by Colonel Elliot in the important financial enquiries, in which I was associated with him during the autumn of 1861, in respect to the Central Provinces. Many of the results of those enquiries have been described in this Report.

Services of Officers under the Civil Administration.

498. Among the Officers immediately connected with the Administration, Lieutenant-Colonel Spence held the Office of Judicial Commissioner from the 1st October 1860 to 11th December 1861, when he became Commissioner of the Nagpore Division. As a Civil and Criminal Judge, he has, in the disposal of a vast number of cases, obtained the confidence of suitors and of the people generally. He held charge of the Chief Commissioner's Office from the 27th February 1862 to the 25th April 1862. Mr. A. H. Cocks was Judge of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and acted as Commissioner for some time, and proceeded to Europe on Medical furlough. He has left a name deservedly popular with all classes, European and Native.

499. Among the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. R. S. Ellis, of the Madras Civil Service, was District Officer of Nagpore during the troubled year of 1857-58. By his spirited and energetic conduct during that trying time, he added stability to British authority and honor to the British name among the people he ruled. Captain G. F. S. Browne (Madras Staff Corps) in the Saugor Division proved himself an able and energetic Officer. He acted as Judge in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories for some months, and is now Officiating as Commissioner of the Nagpore Division. Captain Charles Elliot, Madras Artillery, rendered good service in the Chutteesghur District during the year 1857-58, and received the honors of the Bath. He is known to be an Officer of general ability. He has been appointed Commissioner of the Chutteesghur Division. Colonel Balmain (Madras Artillery) acted as Addtional Judicial Commissioner for a year at Nagpore, and disposed of much heavy appellate business in a satisfactory manner. He is now acting as Commissioner of Chutteesghur. Major W. H. Crichton (Madras Staff Corps) received the honors of the Bath for service rendered during 1857-58, and has managed a large, wild district with vigor and judgment. Major Snow has, as Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore, acquired popularity with the upper class of Natives. Captain Nembhard, Bengal Staff Corps, and Mr. Master, Civil Service, have proved themselves to be good District Officers. Mr. Ross, Uncovenanted Civil Service, has been engaged successfully in important settlement operations in the Nagpore District. Captain Glasfurd, Bombay Staff Corps, in charge of the Godavery District, has managed his wild and extensive charge with judgment and care; and has, by tours undertaken in insalubrious localities, added greatly to our knowledge of those parts. Major Impey (of the Bengal Army) did, by Political and Civil services in the Sumbulpore District and its dependencies, mainly contribute to the restoration

of peace in that much vexed territory. Major Dennys (Bengal Army) has served but for a short time in these provinces; but he has managed successfully a difficult district, the administration of which had fallen into a backward state.

500. The following Deputy Commissioners and Assistants have been well reported of:—

Captain W. B. Thompson.
„ A. C. Gordon.
„ H. F. Waddington.
„ F. A. Fenton.
Major J. N. Maclean
Captain C. Baldwin.
„ J. J. Fulton.
„ A. B. Cumberlege.
Mr. H. J. MacGeorge.
Mr. H. Read.
Lieutenant G. A. Warner.
Captain C. T. O. Mayne.
Lieutenant M. P. Ricketts.
Lieutenant C. H. Grace.
Captain H. S. Rammell.
Captain H. F. Bolton.
Mr. J. Chisholm.

Captain J. Ashburner (Bombay Army) has conducted the political duties connected with the Palace of Nagpore in a satisfactory manner. Captains Ousely, Playfair and Magnine, Cantonment Joint Magistrates at Saugor, Kamptee and Jubbulpore respectively, have all discharged their important duties in a satisfactory manner.

501. Among the Extra Assistants, I desire to mention specially Agha Mahomed Shoostree, who has distinguished himself as a prompt and efficient Civil Judge at Nagpore. Mr. Cline, Mr. Manton, Mr. Cameron, and Sheo Pershad are well reported of. Among the late Judicial Staff of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories the following Officer is mentioned favorably:—

Kooj Beharee Lall, now an Extra Assistant Commissioner.

502. Of those Officers engaged in the ministerial duties, Mr. Barclay of the Chief Commissioner's Office, Mr. A. M. Russell of the late Commissioner's Office at Jubbulpore, and Mr. J. Bailey, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office, deserve mention for their zeal, ability and knowledge.

503. I am not able to name any of the Tehseeldars, or of the Sheristadars, as having won distinction.

504. The new Police has been so recently organized that I am not able to notice many of the Officers. But it is due that the Inspector General, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Taylor (Madras Army), should be noticed in this Report. In carrying out the retrenchments ordered, and in organizing the reduced Establishment, so as to make them as effective as possible, he has evinced both judgment and ability. The Deputy Inspector General, Major Moxon, (Bengal Army), is a zealous and experienced Officer. Among the District Superintendents, I desire to mention Captain Morris, who has been in charge of the Nagpore city and district for more than half of the last official year, and has introduced much reform into the Police. Under him Sheikh Boodun, the City Superintendent, an experienced official obtained from Bombay, has rendered good service.

505. In the Forest Ranger Department, the services of Captain Pearson (Madras Army) and Captain Stewart (Bombay Army) deserve praise. In the performance of their duties these Officers have travelled in unhealthy places, and dwelt for months in the hills and forests. In the Revenue Professional Survey, Captains Grant and Oakes have executed their important work in a complete and accurate manner.

506. In the Customs Department, Messrs. Bell, Melville, and Bastie have rendered effective service.

507. Among the Civil Surgeons, Dr. Hendo deserves special mention, not only as a professional Officer, but for his zeal in the management of the Jail and the Dispensary. From his private funds he has contributed largely to the erection of a new Dispensary building in the city of Nagpore. Also Drs. Wilson, Wyndowe, Bensley, King and Cameron are Officers of known merit and ability. As a class, *all* the Civil Surgeons in these Provinces have done well.

508. Lastly, I have to state that Captain Mackenzie, (Bengal Army), during the brief time that he has served as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, has afforded important aid in preparing the requisite instructions for the Fiscal and Judicial Departments; and, in the revision of all Civil Establishments, has rendered valuable service both administrative and financial.

Services of Officers in the late Nagpore Irregular Force.

509. In the Nagpore Irregular Force, Major H. Shakespear, the Commandant, originally served in the Hyderabad Contingent, and afterwards in the Nagpore Province, served with high distinction throughout the years 1857 and 1858. The following Officers belonging to that force also deserve honorable mention:—

Major W. G. Arrow.
Major J. C. Day.
Major E. G. Wood.
Major the Baron F. Von Meyern.
Captain T. E. L. Higginson.
Captain E. M. Playfair.

Captain C. L. Pereira.
Captain J. E. Burton.
Lieutenant A. Cockburn.
Doctor S. J. Wyndowe.

Services of Officers in the Department of Public Works.

510. In the Public Works Department I should first mention Lieutenant-Colonel H. Maxwell (Engineers), Chief Engineer, who infused energy and life into the Public Works of the Nagpore Province. Lieutenant-Colonel A. Impey (Engineers), having proved himself a good Superintending Engineer in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, has since been highly efficient as Officiating Chief Engineer of the Central Provinces and Secretary in the Public Works Department. Of the other Officers, I desire to mention foremost Mr. Heyman (Executive Engineer), in charge of the Division of the Great Northern Road. The style and the speed with which he has advanced difficult works in a wild and rugged country entitle him to signal praise. In these successful operations Mr. Whiting (Supervisor) has afforded very important aid. In the erection of bridges, on another section of the same line, Mr. O'Donnell has proved himself to be an efficient and able Officer. Captain Prior (Madras Army) has evinced capacity for becoming a valuable Executive Officer. Major Campbell (Madras Army) has done much work out of doors, and is an Officer of industry and practical knowledge. Captain Cobbe (Madras Artillery), Assistant to Chief Engineer, has managed the affairs of that Office in a highly satisfactory manner, and is an Officer of considerable attainments. Captain Chapman (of the Madras Army) performed good work on the Chindwarra Road. I desire to add that Captain Sim, Commanding the Madras Sappers at Seroncha, has co-operated cordially with the Civil Authorities, and has rendered his men very useful. Mr. Meara (Civil Engineer) has executed a considerable amount of work on the Great Eastern Road.

Concluding Remarks.

511. This Report is now concluded. I have endeavoured to explain, with as much brevity as the number and variety of the subjects would admit of, what has been done, and what is being done, for the administration of the Central Provinces. The matters to which attention is now being particularly directed may be stated as follows, in the same order as the several Chapters and Sections of this Report :—

I.—The giving effect in the Judicial Department to Act VIII of 1859 for Civil Procedure, and to the Punjab Code for Principles of Law.

II.—The lessening of the excessive duration of suits, and the better regulation of costs.

III.—The working of Small Cause Courts, so as to avoid hasty and imperfect decisions, while securing speedy justice; and the limiting of the frequency of appeal.

IV.—The employment of Assessors and Punchayets; the discouragement of Native Pleaders and Agents; and the establishing of Clerks of the Courts after the model of Oude.

v.—The recording of evidence by the hand of the Judge, and the admission of the Mahratta language into the Courts of the districts where that language is spoken.

vi.—The quicker despatch of criminal trials before the Session Courts.

vii.—The vesting of Native Chiefs and gentry with Judicial and Magisterial powers, graduated according to individual fitness.

viii.—The *punctual* rendering of such Returns in all branches of the Judicial Department, as may lead to the constant correction of defects.

ix.—The working of the newly-organized Constabulary.

x.—The entire suppression of gang robbery.

xi.—The erection of suitable Jail buildings; the introduction into the prisons of those measures which have elsewhere been found to conduce to the moral discipline of the prisoners; and the subjecting of the prisons to regular inspection.

xii.—The commencement and early completion of the revised assessment of the Land Tax for periods of twenty and thirty years throughout these Provinces.

xiii.—The concession of a permanent settlement to all estates fit to receive it.

xiv.—The securing of a perfect proprietary title in the land, generally, throughout these provinces; and the protection of tenant right and other subordinate interests.

xv.—The demarcation of unclaimed waste land available for grantees.

xvi.—The inspection and regulation of the settlement operations on an uniform principle.

xvii.—The better supervision and repair of minor irrigation works in the Nagpore Province especially.

xviii.—The improvement of the local arrangements for collecting the Salt Tax in certain districts; and its extension into districts now exempt.

xix.—The improvement of the system of excise on intoxicating liquors, by confining their manufacture to central distilleries.

xx.—The working of the new Stamp Act.

xxi.—The modification of the Opium system.

xxii.—The introduction of State Education into the Nagpore Province.

xxiii.—The establishing of Village Schools throughout these Provinces by means of the cess, levied at the rate of one per cent on the Land Tax.

xxiv.—The establishing of Sanataria in the Sautpoora Hills.

xxv.—The completion of the main roads connecting Nagpore with the north.

xxvi.—The speedy opening of the great line connecting Nagpore with the Valley of the Mahanuddy and with the Eastern Coast.

xxvii.—The construction of roads in the Cotton Districts of the Wurda Valley.

xxviii.—The commencement of Tramways in connection with the Railways.

xxix.—The better management of municipal works and local improvements generally, and in the Nagpore Province particularly.

XXX.—The observation of the circumstances connected with the navigation of the Godavery.

XXXI.—The revision and regulation of all kinds of Civil expenditure and establishments, so as to secure financial economy.

XXXII.—The management of wild States and Chiefs under political control (especially those on the Frontiers), so that they may be won over to the cause of order.

XXXIII.—The preservation of the existing Forests.

XXXIV.—The selection of localities suitable for European settlement, according to the Government Resolution of 17th October 1861.

XXXV.—The better preparation of Cotton by means of superior cleaning, pressing and packing.

XXXVI.—The progress of the Revenue Survey.

XXXVII.—The establishment of Fairs in the interior for merchandize, produce and cattle.

XXXVIII.—The prevention of the impressment of labor and carriage, and the introduction of an equitable system of supply.

XXXIX.—The collection and collation of reliable statistics of population, trade and agriculture.

512. On the first formation of a new division of the Empire, work falls heavily upon those entrusted with its administration. This is especially the case when organic changes have simultaneously to be carried out in the Imperial system of some Departments, such as those discussed under the Revenue and Judicial Chapters of this Report. Something has been effected,—much remains to be done. But I think that, upon a consideration of past progress and the present condition of affairs, there arises abundant hope of improvement in the future. I trust that the measures which have been introduced, as well as those which have been proposed, may meet the wishes, and tend to carry out the policy, of His Lordship the Governor General in Council.

NAGPORE:
The 1st August 1862.

(Signed) R. TEMPLE,
Offg. Chief Commsr., Central Provinces.

Rd 23 Jan 64.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES,

FOR THE YEAR 1862-63.

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES,

FOR THE YEAR 1862-63.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.

1 PROCEED to submit the second Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces. The first Report, submitted precisely one year ago, took up the narrative of affairs from the very commencement, and thus glancing over many periods past, traced the course of events up to August 1862. The present Report, relating mainly to the official year 1862-63, will yet embrace every thing of importance up to the present time of writing, that is, up to August 1863.

2. During the past year I have been able to complete the tour and circuit of all the Districts in the Central Provinces, and to pass up and down the two great Rivers, the Godavery and the Mahanuddy. Besides the official reports and other reliable evidence, I am able to affirm of my own knowledge all that has been stated in the last Report, and all that may be stated in the present Report regarding these Provinces. In order, then, to explain the sources of my knowledge of the circumstances which I have submitted, or shall submit, to the Supreme Government, it may be desirable to specify, though in the briefest terms, the several tours which have been undertaken.

The several tours and circuits.

3. The first tour, then, commenced from Jubbulpore on the 26th April 1862. Leaving that Station I travelled to Mundla, and thence to Ramnuggur on the banks of the Nerbudda, thence striking across the centre of the Mundla District to Seonee, on the Trunk Road, and thence to Nagpore. Starting from Nagpore on the 4th of May, I proceeded, by way of Chindwarra, to the Mohtoor Hills, and thence, marching through the Baitool District, to the Khamla and Chikulda Hills. From Chikulda, passing by direct route through Berar by Oomrawuttee, I crossed the Wurdah, and traversed its Valley, stopping at Hinghenghat and Chanda. Thence, returning northwards, I went through the Bhundarra District, as far as the Nowagaon Lake, near the Chuttees-ghur Frontier, and returned to Nagpore on the 12th June.

4. The second tour was undertaken on the 8th August; when, quitting Nagpore, I travelled up and down the Godavery and its affluents, from the Falls of the Wurdah

near Hinghenghat to Cocanada the sea-port. It was necessary to march round the Barriers, but on the intervals or "reaches" of the River the journey was accomplished in Steamers. At the Stations of Rajamundry, Dowlaishwerum, and Cocanada, which belong to the Madras Government, I received every possible assistance and information from the Authorities in respect to the traffic and navigation of the River. From this tour I returned to Nagpore on the 10th of September.

5. The third tour began on the 2nd November. From Nagpore, passing northwards through the Baitool District, I reached Hoshungabad and Hurdah on the extreme western frontier. Thence, turning back, I marched up the Valley of the Nerbudda to Nursingpore, and then struck across the River northwards to Saugor and to Nowgong in Bundlecund. From Nowgong I went through the Dumoh District to Jubbulpore, and down the new road under construction to Nagpore, returning to the Head Quarters on the 21st December.

6. On the fourth tour I set out from Nagpore on the 25th January 1868 and marched to Raepore and Belaspore, the two stations of Chutteesghur, and to Ruttunpore. From Belaspore I proceeded towards Sumbulpore, passing through the waste lands of Sonekan and the country of the Gurjat Chiefs. From Sumbulpore I marched to Sonepore, on the Mahanuddy, and thence took boat for Cuttack, a District belonging to the Bengal Government, where I received every possible information from the Authorities concerning the traffic and navigation of the River, and had also the advantage of meeting the Manager and the Chief Engineer of the East Indian Irrigation Company. From Cuttack I marched back through the jungles to Sumbulpore, and thence up the Mahanuddy to its junction with the Sheonath in Chutteesghur. Thence crossing the Chutteesghur Plateau and visiting the large Zemindaries, I travelled back along the new road under construction to Nagpore, arriving there on the 29th April.

7. The fifth tour commenced on the 17th May. Quitting Nagpore, I marched all over the Puchmarree Hills, and through the Chindwarra and Seonee Districts, to the borders of the Mundla District, and returned to Nagpore on the 19th June.

8. These several journeys embraced every Station and District in the Central Provinces. On a variety of occasions I had the benefit of meeting almost every Native Chief, and the majority of the landholders throughout the country.

9. In the last Report a brief description was given of the country and people of the Central Provinces, and to that I have now but little to add. All that has been since seen and heard confirms what was then stated. But actual experience has drawn forth into strong relief various points which specially affect the administration, and to which a brief reference may in this place appropriately be made.

10. It appears to me, then, that in these Provinces the distinguishing characteristic and the standing difficulty consist in the extent of area, vast out of all proportion to wealth and population, and in the great distances which consequently have to be traversed. If Nagpore be taken as the centre of the administrative circle, and the outer frontier of these Provinces as its circumference, then the radii to be drawn from the centre to the principal points on such supposed circumference will be vast, and will involve great distances. For instance, from

Great distances to be travelled over.

Nagpore to the frontier beyond Sangor on the northwest the distance amounts to 300 miles; from Nagpore to the frontier beyond Hoshungabad on the west 220 miles; from Nagpore to the frontier beyond Sumbulpore on the east 380 miles; and from Nagpore to the gorge of the Godavery at the Ghaut Mountains in the south 400 miles.

11. But the seasons in this part of India are not, on the whole, favourable to lengthened travelling. The autumn, owing to the prevalence of jungle fever, would be prejudicial to any one, even with the strongest constitution, who should venture to move about in the interior. Marching, therefore, cannot safely commence until the beginning of November. Then the winter is short, and the hot-weather sets in by February; and, lastly, the dry season does not last long, for the burst of the monsoon (Rains) is to be expected by the end of May. Travelling, though difficult, is, however, practicable throughout June; and in some quarters, such as the Godavery country, if one disadvantage be balanced against another, the best time for travelling is in the midst of the rainy season. Those, therefore, who would see and know the Central Provinces in detail must be prepared to face the scorching winds of the summer and the drenching rains of the monsoon. Nor is travelling facilitated by those appliances which now exist in the more advanced parts of India. Here, as yet, there is no Railway, no Steam Communication, no Horse Carriage transit over metalled roads. The work must be generally done on horseback, save where the more precipitous Hills have to be ascended on foot.

The seasons for travelling.

12. A circuit of the Provinces is no chimera, but must actually be undertaken. On every one of the frontiers there are matters of administrative concern. It does not happen that in these Territories points of interest and importance are concentrated in particular quarters, the remainder of the country being blank. Nature and circumstances have, with a severe impartiality, distributed the points of interest and importance over the whole length and breadth of the land. In one distant direction it will be the local political affairs that claim attention; in another the land tenures; in another the navigable rivers; in another the arrangements for defence and protection; in another the forests; and in another the communications through the Passes.

Necessity for tours and circuits.

13. Again, these Provinces must be seen and traversed in order to be known in any adequate degree, or to be understood in an administrative sense. Maps are still deficient; but even if they existed, still, however great might be their use and value, they could never impart a sufficiently practical idea of the peculiar country. For the cardinal feature in the topography is its variety, endlessly recurring and rapidly fluctuating. The champaign country is constantly interspersed with Hills; the Forest with habitation; the Waste with culture; and the Wilderness with rivers. In some countries it happens that a traveller passing through a tract of territory will gain a good idea of the whole of it: having seen one part, he understands all. Such, however, is never the case here. A traveller passing through the very heart of these Provinces might be able to imagine no more of the country than that which was bounded by the horizon of actual sight. For instance, on journeying down the Wurdah country to Chanda, he would see for many miles a vast garden of grain and cotton without imagining that at a short distance on the

left there was an equally great belt of unculturable jungle. Again, while travelling eastward from Bhundarra, he would pass through a miserable country, without fancying that on his left there was the region of Lakes and Tanks, and to his front the cultivated plains of Chutteesghur. From the Jubbulpore direction, descending towards the Nagpore country by the Pass through the Hills, he would enter a hopeless jungle, little thinking that a few miles to the left there is the beautiful Ruttungee Valley. Again, within the Hills, he might go from Seonee to Chindwarra passing through a highly cultivated tract, evidently one of the granaries of the country; but it would not occur to him that this tract is an upland overhanging the southern slope of the Range, the steep sides of which are clothed with Forest, and through which the Pench River dashes in its fury. Instances might be multiplied; but enough has been said to shew that, in order to be seen, the country must be traversed, not in main lines only, but in many different directions backwards and forwards.

Remarkable varieties in the scenery.

14. It must, however, be admitted that the Hills which jut into or tower over the country at so many points do present considerable advantages for mastering the topography. From such Hills the prospect gives a commanding knowledge of the physical character of the surrounding regions. Such for instance is the Sirkonda Hill near Seroncha, whence the Valley of the Godavery, the Pranheta and the Indrawutty Rivers can be seen at one sight; or the Chouraghur Hill, whence the whole Valley of the Nerbudda can be viewed stretching grandly between the parallel ranges of the Vindhya and Sautpoora Mountains, whence formerly the Nond Kings looked down over the fair kingdom they had conquered; or the Kaleebheet Hill near Mukrye, whence the Forests and the villages all along the banks of the Taptee can be discerned; or the Lappa Hill, or any of the Hills near Ruttunpore, whence the character of the great Cutteesghur Plateau, environed on all sides by Hills, can be clearly understood; or the Koharghur Hill, where, from the fine submontane cultivation watered by the Wyngunga and its tributaries, but surrounded by Hills and Forests, can be appreciated; or, lastly, the Choura Deo Peak, in the Puchmarree Hills, toilsomely climbed by Pilgrims, who say that from there the faint sheen of the Nerbudda can be traced on the north, and the distant horizon of the Nagpore Plains on the south.

Views from the summits of Hills.

15. Even from this slight sketch of the external aspect of the country, it will be manifest that the first great want is roads and communication, both by land and by water. Unless this need shall be supplied; all other measures of improvement, however well designed and executed, will fail, more or less, to make a real impression on the country. Of what use will it be to increase cultivation and production, unless outlets be provided for surplus produce? How can measures of intellectual and moral advancement be carried out, if Tribes and Districts are isolated from each other for want of easy and rapid intercommunication? Despite the great length of roads more or less under construction, the mind is oppressed by the sense of the distance yet remaining to be done in the way of cross roads and branch roads, after the main lines shall

The want of roads.

have been completed. Still, there is hope to be drawn from the patient energy with which the carrier-classes throughout the country toil over the unmade roads. No person could observe without admiration the hundreds of pack bullocks, laden, perhaps, with merchandize from the Eastern Coast, winding laboriously up the Hill side, steep even for foot passengers; or at night drawn up in regular squares with their loads and their drivers in the centre; or the country carts with their sharp narrow wheels sometimes jolting over the boulders, sometimes speeding at full till down the bank of a river at the risk of the driver's life, and sometimes struggling up the Hill Pass,—occasionally even lifted over the rocks, the cattle having been unyoked, and the wheels taken off for that purpose. But all this only shews how much roads are needed, and how they would be appreciated if they existed.

Richness of soil and means of irrigation.

16. The observer cannot but be struck by the richness of the soil in most parts of these Provinces, but in the Nagpore Districts especially; and also by the facilities for artificial irrigation which the contour of the country presents. Constant undulations with hollows, depressions and vallies intervening, form the leading characteristic of the Nagpore country. The streams are very numerous, and gorges or basins, wonderfully suited for the construction of tanks and reservoirs, are to be seen in all directions.

Woods and Forests.

17. Another marked feature in these Provinces is the prevalence of woods and forests, which are not only situate on remote frontiers, but also extend through the very heart of these territories, closely intermingled with the cultivated districts, often adjacent to great thoroughfares, and sometimes comparatively near even to capital towns. The first-rate timber has, indeed, been partially exhausted; but the quantities of second and third-rate timber are really vast. The forests, too, are found to be sparsely inhabited by Hill Tribes, and there occurs the difficulty of adequately preserving the growth of timber without unduly interfering with the dwellers in the woods, and without destroying in the wilderness the few existing traces of human habitation.

Mineral Resources.

18. In other respects, also, these Provinces are well endowed with natural wealth. Besides timber-wood and fuel, there is a fair abundance of stone, and marble, and lime; of coal and iron; of fluxes, dyes and pigments. But these resources will never be thoroughly available until communication shall be opened.

Arts and manufactures.

19. Of arts, manufactures and industries, there is a more than ordinary deficiency throughout these Provinces. In the interior of the country skilled artisans are scarcely to be met with; even at many of the stations there is a want of indigenous masons and carpenters. Those trained workmen that may be met with are often foreigners, regularly imported. The workmen of these parts are neither industrious, nor remarkable for physical vigour. A man here will not do in a day nearly as much as a man in Northern India. The domestic architecture of the people is generally mean and poor; in the interior the cottages are miserable, and in towns the dwellings are huts rather than houses; owing to the general use of thatch for roofing, destructive fires are regarded as inevitable

dispensators. Efforts are made to induce the people to substitute tiling for thatch; but there is always a difficulty in finding tile-makers. The cloth-weavers generally are a sturdy class. The humble cotton-spinners in the interior have suffered severely from the increased exportation of the raw material, and many of them have been driven to other occupations. The people generally are quite inapt at mechanical contrivance. It is more than ordinarily difficult to teach even the traders to study or adopt machinery for the cleaning or pressing of cotton. Still the rise of wages in all branches, and the increased means of employment, (which have been as remarkable here as any where,) must, sooner or later, raise the character of the non-agricultural classes, and prepare a field for mechanical skill and industrial intelligence.

Want of education.

20. It must be admitted that the people in these Provinces are at present thoroughly uneducated. I suppose that in no part of British India could there be found a population lower or darker in this respect. There are no places of Native learning, and no learned classes. There is not one indigenous School to fifty villages. There are no educated youths any where. In many countries the Mahratta State produced classes of Brahmins, second to none in aptitude and intelligence. But in Central India our Mahratta predecessors bequeathed to us no such class to fill our public employments. Educated young men are seldom to be found on the spot, consequently the majority of our greater Offices, and even a proportion of the smaller, are held by Natives of other parts of India. Some years of educational effort must elapse before the rising generation in these Provinces can vie with their brethren in the more advanced Provinces of the Empire.

Recognition of rights in the soil.

21. Another obvious and pressing need in these Provinces is the recognition and determination of proprietary title and of tenant rights in the land. This matter lies deep at the very root of all improvement in by far the largest section of society. After weary delays, it is being carried out at last. Until this shall be done the public mind will not be easy nor contented, capital will not be accumulated and applied, and agriculture will not advance.

Various classes of society.

22. Among the great agricultural community the complete preservation of the upper and middle classes is, perhaps, a happy circumstance. They are, indeed, rude and uninstructed, but they exist and maintain their relative position. In many districts there is a sprinkling of what may be called a rural aristocracy. In all districts there is a middle class, a degree below the upper class, but clearly above the mass of the rustic people. It is this class which has its representatives in almost every village throughout the country, and which will be immensely benefited by the new settlements, and hence may be derived a good omen for the future. For if this middle class can be gradually enlightened and civilized, it will serve as a lever to lift up the mass of the people from the slough of ignorance and apathy.

23. The occurrence of considerable changes within a few years is anticipated by all classes. The opening of the navigation of the Godavery, and ultimately, perhaps, of the Mahanuddy will be of vast commercial importance, and will benefit all interests in the Eastern and Southern Districts. But the change for which all persons, both European

Prospective consequences of the opening of the Railways.

and Native, in these Provinces are hoping, is the opening of Railways from Bombay to Nagpore and Jubbulpore. It is hardly possible, at the present time, to estimate adequately the future consequences of this, whether from a moral, or political, or material point of view. Then, at last, the isolation with its attendant evils, under which Central India has languished, will cease. And it is for this event that people here are anxiously waiting, just as watchers by night look for the dawn.

24. The seventeen Districts into which the Provinces are apportioned; and the Divisions or Commissionerships into which the Districts are grouped, were mentioned in the Introductory Chapter of my last Report. The formation of the two additional Districts, one in the Valley of the Wurdah and one in Chuttesghur, has proved highly beneficial to the administration of those important tracts.

Administrative Jurisdictions.

It will probably be necessary to provide for the separate supervision of the southern part of the Mundla District, which enquiry shews to have been, heretofore, unavoidably neglected owing to its remoteness. It is found that the Hoshungabad and Baitool Districts, now attached to the Saugor Division, are too far removed from the Commissioner's control; and the re-allotment of Districts between the Commissionerships of Saugor and Jubbulpore has been for some time under discussion. The work of the Nagpore Commission proves to be so much more onerous than that of the other Commissioners, that it may become necessary to provide some additional Judicial Agency at Nagpore itself. In other respects the distribution of Districts and Divisions, as at first proposed, has worked well in practice.

CHAPTER II.—Law and System.

25. During the year under review, 1862-63, the first care of this Administration has been the introduction of Law and System. Organization is the root of administrative success. It is effected by the introduction of Acts of the Legislature, by the enforcing of attention to Regulations previously overlooked,

Necessity of Law and System.

and by the elaboration of Rules for every branch of the executive system. In Provinces of a composite character, like these, special attention to the subject is essential, and the changes that have recently been made in the several Judicial Departments amount almost to revolution. Vigour of administration must largely depend on the existence of a firmly constituted and lawful base of operations, a clear series of Laws and Rules for practical guidance, and a well marked goal and standard to be attained.

26. From the last Report it will have been seen that, for the congeries of territories which were formed into the Central Provinces, there were, up to the year 1862-63, a variety of Laws, Rules and Systems, each having force, more or less, in the several parts, but none having force over the whole. In other Non-regulation Provinces, even where there were no Laws, there was yet a Rule and a System clear and complete. But in the territories newly brought together under the general designation of the Central

Provinces, there could be no universal procedure, no general regulation, no complete legal foundation for the conduct of affairs. At the outset, then, it is manifest that this state of things was a source of weakness and of difficulty. For several months, until a general standard could be fixed and principles enunciated, it was impossible to enforce executive order, or to ensure the advance of progress. This important circumstance must, of course, affect injuriously the aggregate results of the year under report; for a great part of the year was spent in determining and declaring what the new system should be, and the remainder only of the year could be devoted to following and enforcing that system. One of the chief labours of the year, then, has been to establish the various Laws and Acts required for, or applicable to, these Provinces, and to fuse all the various Rules and Orders into one system to be observed in *all* Districts alike.

Absence of previous systematic uniformity.

27. In furtherance of this object, the following Laws have been introduced and made applicable to the whole of the Central Provinces:—

Acts and Laws actually introduced.

(1.) Act VIII. of 1859. The Code of Civil Procedure.—This Act was introduced with certain modifications, with which it had been previously introduced into Oudh.

(2.) Act XIV. of 1859, being an Act to provide for the limitation of period within which the various kinds of Suits can be heard.

(3.) Act X. of 1862, being an Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Stamps.

(4.) Act XLII. of 1860, being an Act for the establishment of Courts of Small Causes, amended by Act XII. of 1861.

(5.) Act X. of 1859, as amended by Act XIV. of 1863, being an Act to amend the Law relating to the recovery of Rent.

(6.) Act XXV. of 1861. The Code of Criminal Procedure.

(7.) Act XV. of 1862, being an Act to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, and enlarging the powers of Magistrates in Territories not subject to the General Regulations; and vesting the Judicial Commissioner singly with all the powers of a Sudder Court.

(8.) Act IX. of 1860, being an Act to make provision for the speedy determination of certain disputes between workmen engaged in Railway and other Public Works and their employers.

(9.) Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, regarding obstructions and nuisances on roads, has been specially extended to various Towns.

28. The extension of the following Acts to these Territories has been proposed:—

Application made for the extension of other Acts.

Act XI. of 1863, relating to the service and execution of Civil Processes.

Act XIII. of 1859, for the punishment of breaches of contract by artificers, workmen, and labourers in certain cases.

Act XXVI. of 1850, for improvements, Police and Conservancy in Towns and Bazaars, with special reference to the City and Station of Nagpore.

The enactment of a Law introducing into these Provinces the provisions of Act XXI. of 1856, relating to the manufacture of spirits and the sale of liquors and intoxicating drugs, has been recommended.

A similar recommendation has been made with the view of obtaining the enactment of a Law similar to Act XIX. of 1862, extending to the Provinces of Oudh certain provisions of Acts XIV. of 1843 and XXXVI. of 1855, relating to the importation and manufacture of Salt.

Act XXXI. of 1861, to regulate the manufacture of Saltpetre and the sale of Salt educed in the refinement thereof.

29. The attention of all Judicial Officers has also been drawn to the following Regulations and Acts, as being already applicable, with certain exceptions of detail, to these Provinces, and as governing important matters.

Regulations and Acts to which attention has been drawn.

Regulation X. of 1793.
XXVI. of 1793.
I. of 1793.
LV. of 1793.
III. of 1796.
VII. of 1796.
VII. of 1799.
I. of 1829.

The several Regulations noted in the margin regarding the establishment and constitution of the Court of Wards.

Acts XXII. of 1854 and XL. of 1858, regarding the care of the Person, Property and Education of Minors.

Regulation XVII. of 1795.
II. of 1797.
VI. of 1819.
III. of 1812.
VIII. of 1814.
XX. of 1817.
VI. of 1825.

Portions of the several Regulations as noted in the margin, relating to the duties and responsibilities of Landholders and their Agents.

The Regulation VI. of 1819 regarding the establishment of Public Ferries.

Act XIX. of 1843, regarding the Registration of Deeds, together with the Punjab Rules on the same subject.

Acts I. of 1849 and VII. of 1854, regarding the disposal of persons accused of committing offences in Foreign Native States.

Acts XIV. of 1853, Sections 19 and 26, and II. of 1855, regarding evidence.

Acts III. of 1857, and I. of 1860, regarding trespasses by Cattle.

Acts XXXV. and XXXVI. of 1858, regarding Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums.

Also to the principles of Act XXI. of 1857, Sections 10 to 15, regarding Public Gaming Houses and Gambling.

30. In respect to substantive Law, that portion of the Punjab Code which relates to principles of Law, especially to the fundamental maxims of the Hindoo and Mahomedan Laws, as modified by Local Customs, has been prescribed for the guidance of all the Courts.

Punjab Code of Principles of Civil Law.

31. The result of these measures is that something approaching to a constitution has been given to the Central Provinces. It will appear that the country has become regulationized; and, indeed, as regards the Judicial Department, both Civil and Criminal,

this is truly the case. Our Courts in these Provinces are bound by the Laws in all respects as much as the Courts in any part of India can possibly be. So far then the old distinction between the "Regulation" and "Non-Regulation" Territories is well nigh obliterated.

Executive Rules for the several Departments.

32. Of the various sets of Executive Rules in the several administrative Departments, the principal are as follows :—

I.—Judicial Department.

1.—Rules under which the Tehseeldars or Sub-Collectors are classified into Judicial grades and restricting the Judicial powers to be exercised in each grade. By these Rules Tehseeldars would ordinarily receive investiture with Judicial powers as follows :—

First Grade.—Composed of Tehseeldars who have for one year exercised the power of the 2nd grade with satisfaction to their superiors.

Civil.—Power to try and pass final judgment in suits of a value less than Rupees three hundred (£30).

Criminal.—The powers of a subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd or 1st grade under Section 22 of Act XXV. of 1861.

Revenue.—Power to try and decide summary suits, and also regular Revenue suit of a value less than Rupees three hundred (£30).

Second Grade.—Comprising Tehseeldars other than those in the first grade.

Civil.—Power to try and pass final judgment in suits of a value less than Rupees one hundred (£10).

Criminal.—The powers of a subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd grade under Section 22 of Act XXV. of 1861.

Revenue.—Power to investigate and report for final orders summary and regular Revenue suits.

2.—Rules modifying previous practice, and permitting Tehseeldars to receive petitions of plaint instituting suits triable by them in the Judicial branch of the Revenue Department.

3.—Rules regulating the cognizance of Judicial suits in the Revenue and Settlement Courts respectively. These Rules prescribe that all rights to property in land, and all questions connected with such property, shall be defined and adjudicated in the Settlement Courts. When once the fundamental definition and adjudication shall have been made, the rights will descend in the regular lines, and consequences will flow therefrom in the usual channels; and then all suits and causes relating to land will be heard in the regular Courts. In the mean time those Courts will only take cognizance of suits for rent, exaction and the like, leaving all rights in the land to the cognizance of the Settlement Courts.

Proposed Code for the Settlement Department.

4.—A Code of Rules for the guidance of Settlement Officers, compiled from all the orders which have issued from authority since the commencement of Settlements in 1853, and comprising additional orders on every subject of importance which have been called for up to date.

5.—A Manual for the use of Honorary Magistrates.

6.—Rules in detail for the maintenance of regular Cause Lists in both Civil and Criminal Courts.

7.—Rules for holding Sessions trials at out-stations on stated dates and at regular intervals.

8.—Rules detailing the duties of Clerks of the Courts.

9.—Rules for the admission of Pleaders into the Courts of the Central Provinces.

10.—Rules to regulate the instruction of Prisoners in reading and writing, and the introduction of the good behaviour system.

11.—Rules in regard to the mode of conducting Sessions trials, or trials by Magistrates, under Section 1 of Act XV. of 1862, in English.

II.—Revenue Department.

12.—Rules for the appropriation of, and for the award of compensation for, land required for public purposes.

13.—Rules for the demarcation of Waste Lands to which no just or reasonable claim could be substantiated.

14.—Rules for the remittance of Treasure from Tehseel Treasuries in the interior of Districts, and system of account in those Treasuries.

15.—Rules for the administration of the Excise on Spirits on the principle of imposing a duty at the still-head, commonly called the Sudder Distillery system.

16.—Rules for the establishing of Scale at Nagpore for the weighment of Opium, with a view to its exportation from Bombay to China.

17.—Rules for conserving and for regulating the consumption of Timber in Forests.

III.—Financial.

18.—Rules for the payment of Pensions, half-yearly, in June and December.

IV.—Educational.

19.—The Educational Scheme for the Central Provinces with detailed Rules for its introduction and execution.

20.—Rules by which the aid of all the administrative Officers of Districts is centralized on behalf of the Central Museum at Nagpore.

21.—Rules for the examination of Candidates for public employ, and for granting Certificates of general educational proficiency, without which Public employment may not be obtained.

V.—General Department.

22.—Revised Rules for the administration of Local Funds and the constitution of Local Committees.

23.—Rules for the administration of property in the hands of Local Committees.

24.—Rules prescribing a system of Arboriculture.

25.—Rules appointing every District Officer, ex-Officio Honorary Corresponding Member of the Agri-Horticultural Society, in order the more effectually to render official co-operation and support to that Society.

26.—Rules prescribing system of annual repairs of District Roads.

27.—Rules regarding the management of Ferries.

28.—Rules for assisting in the supply of labor and carriage consequent on the abolition of forced labor.

29.—Rules for the introduction of Standard Weights and Measures.

30.—Rules for the examination of Civil Officers in the junior grades.

31.—Rules for the Departmental examination of Native Ministerial Officials.

32.—Rules for the better conduct of public business in the Offices of the General Civil Administration.

33.—Rules prohibiting Sunday labor in Offices, or on Public Works.

34.—Rules in regard to the Junior Officers of Districts making tours in the interior of Districts.

35.—Rules for the better distribution of business amongst the Civil Officers in Districts.

36.—Rules in regard to improving the breed of Sheep in the Central Provinces.

37.— Ditto Horned Cattle.

38.—Rules for the observance of the provisions of the Arms Act, or Act XXXI. of 1861.

39.—Rules for the registry of Trade Statistics.

40.—Rules regarding the encouragement of Fairs.

41.—Rules regarding the constitution of Dispensary Committees in each District.

42.—Rules for the determination of the relations between the Inspector of Prisons and the Officers in charge of Jails.

33. It has seemed necessary to state separately all that has been done in respect to the establishing of Law and System, so that the whole matter might be seen at one view. In the following Chapters it will be seen how far all these Laws and Rules have affected the administration in the several Departments.

CHAPTER III.—JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

The first Judicial Report for the Central Provinces.

34. In my last Report the substance of the Chapter on Civil Justice in 1861 and previous years was drawn from rough and diverse materials: such as the Nagpore Returns, which, being prepared for the first time, were necessarily imperfect; and the Saugor and Nerbudda Returns, which were drawn up on a plan differing from the new system. The present Report will refer to the year 1862, during which the Office of Judicial Commissioner, as

final appellate authority, and as Minister of Justice, had been thoroughly constituted. For this year, then, the Reports and Returns have been, more or less, systematically collated for the Central Provinces as a whole; and the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. John Strachey, has been able to present, what may be termed, the *first* Judicial Report for these Provinces.

35. The machinery for the dispensing of Civil Justice was described in my last Report. It will be sufficient here to state, in recapitulation, that there are now 47 Tehseeldars* who reside in the interior of Districts, and try suits to the value of Rupees 300, or £30; 12 Assistant and 18 Extra Assistant Commissioners, who reside chiefly at Head Quarters of Districts, and try suits up to Rupees 5,000 (£500); and 17 Deputy Commissioners, who preside over whole Districts and try suits without any limit of amount. The above are all Courts of Original Jurisdiction, and their judgments are appealable. Over each Division, or Circle of Districts, there is the Appellate Court of the Commissioner. There are four Commissioners, placed at Nagpore, Raepore, Jubbulpore and Saugor. There are two Courts of Small Causes, one at Nagpore and the other at Jubbulpore; also three Cantonment Magistrates, at the Military Stations of Kamptee, Jubbulpore and Saugor, empowered to try Civil Suits up to Rupees 200 (£20). Their decisions are not appealable. Over all these Courts (except those of the Cantonment Magistrate's) there is the Judicial Commissioner as final Court of Appeal. His decisions, again, are appealable only to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The aggregate number of all the Civil Judges does, on the whole, constitute a sufficient Judicial Staff for these Provinces. The principal towns and places are well provided with Civil Judges; and although in the interior of Districts, owing to the great area, the Civil Courts are few and far between, still no difficulty is felt at present, as the people in those parts are not litigious. They are not, indeed, advanced to that state of Society in which litigation would be largely generated. And the circumstance, which was mentioned in paragraph 66 of the last Report, as causing suits in the agrarian Districts to be less than might otherwise have been expected, continues to operate. On the whole, about half the cases are tried by the Tehseeldars, mostly in the interior of the Districts, and the remainder by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants at the Head Quarters of Districts.

* Including four Deputy Tehseeldars, who are in independent charge of jurisdictions similar to those of Tehseeldars.

The various kinds of Civil Courts.

36. In my last Report, referring to 1861, the total number of suits was stated in paragraph 66 to be small as compared to the population, and it was added that a moderate increase of litigation would be a good sign, as indicating the growing popularity of the Courts. Now it happened that in 1862 an increase of this nature has actually occurred. There were 18,864 suits instituted in 1862, against 15,860 in 1861; while the total number of cases brought on the file was 29,631 in 1862, against 18,601 in 1861. Again the value of property litigated amounted to Rupees 22,71,206 or £227,120 in 1862, against Rupees 11,93,332 or £119,333 in 1861. The average value of property litigated in a suit amounts in 1862 to only Rupees 86 or £8-12, which proves the litigation to be, for the most part, of a petty character. Few suits, involving large and important interests, are to be met with. This increase of litigation, which amounts to

Increase of litigation.

19 per cent., has been very general in almost all Districts; but it has been especially great in Nagpore, Wurda, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad and Raepore, which, it may be remarked, are the great Cotton Districts.

Majority of suits are for simple debt.

37. The classification of the various kinds of suits is not so complete as it ought to be, nor as it will be for 1863. But, without doubt, the great majority of the suits are for simple debt. Of these far more occur in the towns and cities than in the villages. One important class of cases—the debts of the larger landholders are adjusted in the first instance in the Settlement Department. Here, as in other parts of India, the Landholder, well-born and well-descended, vigorous in character, but illiterate and inapt in business, gradually falls into the grasp of the money-lenders, who obtain a lien on his Estate. The manner in which such liens are adjusted will be mentioned in the Revenue Section of this Report.

The average duration of suits.

38. Those portions of the Returns which bear upon the despatch of the aggregate of business thus indicated, do certainly show improvement. Although in 1862 the work was much more than in 1861, the proportion that remained pending at the end was much less. At the close of 1861 the proportion of cases pending was 10 per cent., but at the close of 1862 it was only 4 per cent. For 1861 the corresponding percentages in the Punjab and Oude were 3 and 6 respectively. Another test of despatch is the average duration of suits. This average period has, for the whole of the Provinces, amounted to 34 days in 1862. This period will appear long when it is remembered that the corresponding period in the Punjab and Oude amounts to only 20 days. But in the Central Provinces the average is increased by reason of the large number of old and long pending cases in the late Nagpore Province and in the Sumbulpore District, all which have been recently cleared off. For the Sumbulpore District, indeed, the average duration of a suit was 225 days, which was owing to the disposal of a number of cases which had been kept pending during the disturbances. In my last Report (paragraph 69) it was stated that in some Districts many cases, from some special cause or other, had remained pending for months and even years. In reporting on the year 1862, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Strachey, now writes as follows:—

Final clearance of old pending cases.

"Some of the cases disposed of in 1862 had been on the file for an enormous time. In Nagpore, for example, there was a case that had been pending for more than five years in Chindwara, one that had been pending for six years." The Courts have, however, at last ridden themselves of this old incubus; and at the close of 1862 there was no case pending which had been instituted in a previous year. A rapid improvement, therefore, in the despatch of business, and, consequently, in the average duration of suits, is to be looked for. Many Courts, indeed, show an average of 20 days and even less than that. The Judicial Commissioner considers that "there has been improvement in this respect in the great majority of Districts." Some Courts, however, show much higher averages, and further care is needed before every Court shall learn to dispose of its work with that promptitude which is due to the parties who come before it.

Classification of Decisions.

39. Of the total number of decisions within 1862, about 64 per cent. were in favor of Plaintiff, 12 per cent. in favor of Defendant, 12 per cent. adjusted by compromise, and 8 per cent. were struck off in default. So far as these proportions may be taken as a test of the quality of the Judicial work and the care taken in investigations, the Judicial Commissioner remarks that they agree very nearly with those of Oude and the Punjab.

Proportion of costs to value of suits.

40. The average porportion of costs to value of suits has been 6 per cent., which is moderate. In my last Report, paragraph 70, I explained that the Punjab method had been adopted, whereby a fluctuating scale ensured the exact apportionment of costs to the various kinds of suits classed according to value. This has been in force for about half the year 1862. But since the introduction of the Civil Procedure Code and of the Stamp Act, there will be legal difficulty in carrying the method out. It is contemplated to apply for the introduction of Act XI. of 1863, for regulating the serving of Processes.

Applications for execution of Decrees.

41. The total number of applications for execution of Decrees which came before the Courts amounted to 19,044, showing a large increase over 1861, when the number amounted to 14,638. Considering that in 1862 the total number of Decrees in favor of Plaintiff only amounted to 17,161, it is evident, from the number (19,044) of applications for execution, that decree-holders began largely in that year to sue out execution of old decrees. The circumstance is probably not unfavorable, as indicating increased facilities for obtaining enforcement of judgments.

Proportion of Appeals to Decisions.

42. The Returns relating to *appeals* indicate improvement, both in the quality of the decisions of the Lower Courts, and in the action of the appellate Courts themselves. The Deputy Commissioners hear appeals from the Tehseeldars, and from those of their Assistants not vested with powers. The number of appeals to Deputy Commissioners, then, fell from 1,673 in 1861 to 1,168 in 1862. The most marked decrease was in the Nagpore Division, where the number fell from 829 to 420. Considering that the number of decisions was much greater in 1862 than in 1861, this decrease is satisfactory. The appeals laid to the several Commissioners showed a slight increase, being 603 in 1862 against 560 in 1861. But the number in both years is absolutely very small. Taking the aggregate appellate business of all Courts together, the Judicial Commissioner reports that about 10 per cent. of decisions in original cases are appealed against, and about 2¼ per cent. of original orders are interfered with. If out of cases decided only one out of ten is appealed against, and if out of cases appealed only one out of four is interfered with, the general quality of the work may be inferred to be fair. Before the Deputy Commissioners the average duration of appeals was 72 days. This high average arises mainly from old cases having been cleared off. This remark is specially applicable to the Chuteesghur Division. In the Nagpore Division the average fell from 125 days in 1861 to 27 in 1862. Before the Commissioners

Despatch of appellate business.

the average duration of appeals fell in the Saugor Division from 47 days in 1861 to 27 in 1862; in the Jubbulpore Division from 17 in 1861 to 20 in 1862. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur

Divisions the Commissioners were clogged by numbers of very old cases; so their averages, though shewing a commendable decrease, do yet appear, in consequence of the above stated disadvantage, to be inordinately high. In the Nagpore Division the enormous average of 291 days in 1861 was reduced to 166 in 1862. In the Chutteesghur Division the average for 1862 was 47 days. In both these Divisions the appeals instituted in these days are despatched with fair promptitude. That the old appeals have at last been really swept away is manifest from the fact that at the beginning of 1863, the oldest Appeal pending was one of July 1862, before the Commissioner of Nagpore; and in the other Divisions there was no case older than September.

43. The new Rules limiting appeal appear to work well. The Judicial Commissioner writes thus upon the subject:—

The limiting of appeal.

"In 1861 special appeals were admitted on the merits of the case, when two or even three lower Courts had concurred in the decision. This pernicious custom was done away with in 1862 by the Officiating Chief Commissioner's instructions, and it was ordered that special appeals should only be admitted on points of Law. This has tended usefully to diminish the number of unnecessary appeals."

The previous orders have subsequently received the sanction of Law by the introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure, which prescribes the same rule.

44. There remain to be noticed various measures, great and small, connected with the management of the Courts.

New Code of Civil Procedure.

45. The introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure has been mentioned in the preceding paragraph 27. It did not take actual effect in these Provinces till near the close of 1862. Some little time must, therefore, elapse before an account of its working can be given. Previous to its introduction, the Punjab Code of Civil Procedure was prescribed. The Judicial Commissioner reports that, had the Courts properly attended to that Code, the subsequent application of Act VIII. of 1859 would have been easy; but that, in reality, the Courts did not attend to it. The state of things that used to prevail, and the manner in which cases used to be prepared, in these Provinces, are thus described by Mr. Strachey:—

Character of the old procedure.

"I know no more disagreeable or burdensome duty than that of wading through the papers of a case got up in the old style of the Courts of these Provinces. I have seen petitions and replies, and rejoinders, and decisions, each of them literally, not metaphorically, yards long, in a petty case of debt of a few Rupees, which ought to have been settled in a few minutes with some half a dozen lines. I not unfrequently get cases consisting of huge masses of papers, from which it is almost impossible to extract a single useful fact, and which leave one at the end bewildered and disgusted. The wonder often is to me, not why cases were kept pending so long, but how, under such a system, they were ever decided at all."

46. In respect to the periods of limitation (from cause of action arising) within which various kinds of suits might be brought, the Punjab Rules were ordered to take effect from 1st January 1863. The Act XIV. of 1859 on the same subject has since been introduced; it will not, however, take effect for the next two years.

New Statute of Limitation.

47. Of the two Small Cause Courts which have been established within the year at Jubbulpore and Nagpore, the Jubbulpore Court has worked fairly, though it has not attracted as much business as was expected. The Nagpore Court has attracted much business, but its working was badly managed at first; an Officer has now, however, been permanently appointed to it, and great improvement is taking place.

The working of the Small Cause Courts.

48. The method, commonly called the *viva voce* system, whereby the record of the evidence is written by the Judge with his own hand, instead of the hand of a deposition-writer, according to the old method, was mentioned in paragraph 77 of my last Report. The Judicial Commissioner now reports that it has been practically extended to all the Courts, by the introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure, with the modifications ordered by Government.

The recording of Evidence by the hand of the Judge.

49. The judicious resort to arbitration, in certain kinds of cases continues to be specially enjoined on the Courts under the limitations prescribed by Law.

50. The eliminations in each case of the issues to be tried, according to the Oude Rules, is insisted upon; some difficulty is, however, experienced in inducing the Courts to attend to this properly.

The elimination of issues to be tried.

51. The use of the Mahratta language in the Courts of the Nagpore Division has been established. The majority of the Hindoostanee officials have been transferred to other districts, and their place supplied by men whose mother-tongue is Mahratta. In cases where qualified Natives could be found, they were employed. Where such could not be found, men were obtained from the Bombay Districts. But the Bombay men, though, in respect to language, tribe, origin, and associations, far more akin to the Nagpore people than the Hindoostanees could possibly be, are yet in some sense foreigners. Now, however, that education has been commenced, and that an impulse is given to educational effort by the use of the Mahratta language in the Courts, and the employment of Mahratta officials, the day may not be far distant when the educated youths of Nagpore shall justly aspire to all the high posts and offices that may exist within their own country.

The use of the Mahratta language in the Courts.

52. The expurgation of the Courts from all the unauthorized and unlicensed Pleaders and Agents has been thoroughly carried out. These persons had acquired, in Nagpore especially, a bad reputation. Upon examination they were found quite deficient in proper professional qualifications. A new set of Rules has been promulgated, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, for the future admission of Pleaders to the Courts. These Rules comprise strict tests which will really ensure that those who are admitted shall be

New Rules framed for the admission of qualified Pleaders.

persons of competent education and of good character. The moving principle has been this, that on the one hand, to foster or even tolerate a class of Natives who, destitute both of sound knowledge and honest principles, would initiate those who approached our Courts in the arts of chicanery and fraud, would be to inflict an evil on the country; yet, on the other hand, to encourage and gradually to train a Native Bar of well educated and well principled men would be to secure a benefit both for Courts and for the suitors. Our anticipations may or may not be realized; but one thing is tolerably certain under these Rules, namely, that if we have a Native Bar at all, it will be a good one, and that a bad one we shall not have.

Clerks of the Court.

53. The intended vesting of the Chief Native Ministerial Officials with the definite responsibilities of a Clerk of the Court was mentioned in the 80th paragraph of my last Report. The Judicial Commissioner has set the highest example by carrying out the measure in his own Court; and many of the other Courts have done or are beginning to do the same. The progress of the reform is but gradual; and some Courts have failed to accomplish any thing in this respect.

Registration of Deeds.

54. In order to encourage the registration of Deeds, additional Offices of Registry have been opened at the Tehseel Sub-divisions in the interior. But the people have not yet learnt to avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

Investing of Native gentlemen with Judicial powers.

55. In my last Report, paragraphs 116 to 131, the expediency was explained of admitting the Native gentry in these Provinces to some share in the administration of justice. In pursuance of that principle, it is proposed to invest with judicial powers those non-official gentlemen who may be selected for their ability and character, in order that they may try causes specially relating to the customs and institutions of Native Society.

56. I shall conclude this review by quoting the words of the Judicial Commissioner. At the close of his Report Mr. Strachey writes thus:—

Testimony to improvement in administration of Civil Justice.

"Although much remains to be done in reforming the administration of Civil "justice, I believe that improvement is steadily going "on; and notwithstanding the dissatisfaction which I "have often expressed, I feel confident that the past year (1862) has been one of great "and remarkable progress." This testimony is necessarily entitled to much weight, still, though the general aspect is promising, there remain defects—great even beyond the average defectiveness of Indian Courts;—so that the Judicial Commissioner has but too good ground for stating in one part of his Report that some Courts (it is to be hoped they are few) "either neglect their duty, or do not know how to perform it."

SECTION 11.

Criminal Justice.

57. The machinery of the Criminal Courts in these Provinces was mentioned in my last Report. It will suffice here to state that there are 43 Tehseeldars residing chiefly in the interior of districts, and exercising the powers of Subordinate Magistrates under

the Code of Criminal Procedure; 30 Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners exercising the powers either of Subordinate Magistrates or of Magistrates; 17 Deputy Commissioners exercising the powers either of Magistrates, or else the superior powers under Act XV. of 1862; 3 Cantonment Magistrates; four Commissioners exercising the powers of Sessions Judges; and over the whole, a Judicial Commissioner having the functions of a Sudder or High Court, and the power of sanctioning capital punishment. Thus there are, in all, 98 Officers. Besides these, there are the various Honorary Magistrates.

First Report under the new system of Criminal Law, Procedure, and Police.

58. The Report by the Judicial Commissioner on the administration of Criminal justice, during the year 1862, is the first complete account that has been rendered for the Central Provinces, as a whole, under the operation of the new Penal Code, and the Criminal Procedure prescribed by Act XXV. of 1861, and also under the operation of the new Police system introduced with the organized Constabulary. Thus the substantive law, the procedure, the form of reporting, the Police as the right arm of the executive, are all new. The result will be examined under two divisions—*first*, the state of crime; *second*, the action of the Courts.

Increase in the Returns of Crime.

59. First, then, as to the *state of crime*, the Returns show an apparent *increase* on the whole country in almost every district, and in almost every class of crime. The aggregate of offences bailable and non-bailable was 21,907 in 1862, against 19,479 in 1861. Of this increase a part may be only apparent as resulting from improved reporting; but a part of it may be real.

Crime in the Central Provinces as compared with Northern India.

60. The Judicial Commissioner has given a Comparative Table of the principal crimes in the Central Provinces, as compared with the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab and Oude, which may be extracted here:—

Offences reported.	Central Provinces' assumed population. * 8,000,000.		Punjab Population. 15,000,000.	Oude Population. 5,000,000.	N. W. P. Population. 32,000,000.
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1861.	1861.
Murder and attempted Murder ...	92	109	248	137	237
Culpable Homicide	29	29	99	67	100
Rape	31	52	146	66	...
Dacoity with Murder	5	3	7	2	11
Dacoity	45	61	11	18	20
Robbery on the Highway and elsewhere.	78	85	227	77	139
House-breaking	3,298	4,578	7,088	7,625	8,293
Theft of Cattle	1,024	1,287	7,394	1,748	6,020
Ditto ordinary	5,590	7,454	13,371	6,794	13,506
Receiving stolen property ...	48	181	697	257	..
Mischief by fire	67	84	178	61	...
Total	10,307	13,922	29,416	16,841	29,383

* Exclusive of the population of various Native States, for which there are no reliable Statements of Crime.

Now this Statement is, apparently, favorable to the Central Provinces, and would go far to show that there crime is not more rife than in the Provinces of Northern India. Relatively to population, there would appear to be, in the Central Provinces, less crime than in the Punjab, considerably less than in Oude; though rather more than in the North-Western Provinces. But the comparison with the Punjab and Oude is not really so favorable to the Central Provinces as might, at first sight, appear. In the Central Provinces the people are not so strong-tempered or so high-spirited as in the Punjab. Again the Central Provinces have, for one-third of a century, been free from those troubles and disturbances with which Oude has, up to a recent period, been afflicted. The comparison with the North-Western Provinces is by no means favorable to the Central Provinces.

Several sources of dangerous Crime in the Central Provinces.

61. I desire to explain that there are at present in these Provinces four main sources of crimes, either of an organized description, or of an overt character, dangerous to society. These are,—*first*, certain bands, beyond the Saugor Frontier, living in Scindiah's dominions; these will be dispersed as soon as an old rebel named Debi Sing and his son shall be captured; *second*, Criminals connected with the wild tribes that inhabit the hills and forests of the Sautpoora Range, in the very heart of our territories,—these offenders should be checked by measures of internal repression; *third*, offenders crossing over from the Nizam's territory,—this evil is of a somewhat casual and intermittent character; *fourth*, bands of criminals on and about the Sumbulpore Frontier, led by daring and hardened leaders,—this evil has in nowise diminished as yet.

Criminal Tribes.

62. There are also three tribes in these Provinces, which, more or less, practise heinous crimes as a profession, namely, the Boorcahs, the Kaikarees and the Purdhâns. Many of these have been prosecuted successfully by the Thuggee Department at various times.

Murder.

63. Of particular heads of Crime, it is to be remarked that murders are returned as 95 in 1862 against 84 in 1861. The increase, however, arises from the Sumbulpore Returns having been incorporated in 1862, and not in 1861. Otherwise there is no increase in the Provinces generally. In the Sumbulpore District alone 13 murders occurred; and until that unhappy frontier shall be thoroughly pacified, it will continue to swell yearly our Returns of heinous crime.

Dacoity or Gang Robbery.

64. Of Dacoitees there are registered 61 in 1862 against 45 in 1861. From the table previously inserted, it will be seen that there is more Dacoity in the Central Provinces than in the Punjab and Oude and North-Western Provinces all put together; and this evil, previously so bad in the Central Provinces, has actually been increasing. It must be confessed that this is a great blot, which ought, if possible, to be removed. The increase in the crime may be partly apparent, because the nomenclature of the Penal Code (which causes all robberies in which more than (5) five men were engaged, to be classed as Dacoitees,) may have caused some cases to be entered under Dacoity which would formerly have appeared under some other heading. Still I am satisfied, from special

examination of the Police Records, that the majority of the cases do contain the essence of Dacoity. But after every reasonable abatement has been made, there remains an amount of genuine Dacoity which must give cause for grave anxiety. The Dacoity which we have springs mainly, if not entirely, from the four sources mentioned in the preceding paragraph 61. It may be premature to anticipate the result of the current year (1863) in this respect. But on some points improvement is beginning. Near Nagpore itself, and in the valley of the Nurbudda, and in the plain districts of Chuttersghur, the crime seems well nigh stopped. In the Saugor territory there is little or none of it; but while Debi Sing (mentioned in preceding paragraph 61) is at large, there will be a chance of audacious crimes occurring. It exists slightly in the Chandah District near the Deccan frontier, and in the districts in and about the Sautpoora Hills. In parts of the Sumbulpore frontiers it actually rages. There are some outlawed dacoit leaders sheltered in certain of the Gurjat States; and some old rebels, dregs of the recent disturbances. Of late the Dacoits, taking advantage of the remoteness and inaccessibility of the border, and of the inclement season which renders prevention or pursuit almost impossible, have perpetrated many daring outrages both against life and property.

Highway Robbery.

65. Under the head of Highway Robbery there are 84 cases entered in 1862 against 78 in 1861. These cases are not, however, of a serious character. Owing to the great length of the main lines of road, which wind through extensive belts of jungle, and pass by many desolate places, the prevention of highway robbery is difficult.

House-breaking and ordinary theft.

66. In house-breaking and ordinary theft there is an increase exhibited under the former head, 4,578 cases being set down in 1862 against 3,298 in 1861; and under the latter heading 7,454 against 5,590. In both categories the Judicial and Police Authorities consider that the increase is only apparent, and that the Return shows not that there was more crime, but that it was better reported. It is, however, impossible to affirm anything for certain on this point. There has not, indeed, been any famine or other calamity which might cause any real increase in this class of crime. There seems to be no increase in the value of property stolen, the estimated amount being Rupees 3,54,369 or £33,436-18s. in 1862, against Rupees 3,75,362 or £37,536-4s. in 1861; and the theft continues to be of a petty character.

Cattle-stealing.

67. Under the head of cattle-stealing 1,287 cases are entered in 1862 against 1,024 in 1861. Without doubt any increase in the Return would show nothing, except that the crime was better reported; for in either case the number returned is vastly below the number that actually occurred. This is a crime, the extent of which has probably not been reached or fathomed. In those hilly districts where countless herds of cattle roam over miles and miles of grazing grounds, the cattle-stealers, chiefly belonging to the Purdhan tribe, ply their trade with system and boldness; and (perhaps it is superfluous to add) with almost perfect impunity. The owners, who mostly reside at some distance, accept the evil as inevitable, though I have heard them complain. Indeed, some enterprising landholders, who were ready to reclaim some of the rich waste lands of Mundla, told me

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that one difficulty would be the prevalence of the cattle-stealing. Some steps have been, and more will yet be, taken to check this crime.

The receiving of stolen property.

68. In respect to the receiving of stolen property, the cases brought to light have risen from 48 in 1861 to 181 in 1862. This real and remarkable increase is, no doubt, owing to increased Police efficiency. In this instance the inference may be drawn without the least reserve or hesitation. There must, indeed, be many hundreds more cases of this kind in reality, and the more of them that are brought to light the better. This does indeed constitute a hopeful feature in the Police Returns. There can be no doubt that, if the Returns shall continue to show increasing numbers under *this* heading, there will, sooner or later, be a more than corresponding decrease under the head of theft and burglary.

Witchcraft in Chutteesghur.

69. The belief in witchcraft, though gradually dying out, still drives the ignorant people, in Chutteesghur, occasionally to commit horrid outrages, and even murders. Nothing but the spread of enlightenment can altogether banish this superstition.

70. In my last Report I stated that Thuggee, Infanticide, and Meriah Sacrifice no longer exist in these Provinces: further enquiry has supported this belief.

71. Having thus glanced at the state of crime, the aspect of which has more shade than light upon it, I proceed to the second point, namely, the action of the Criminal Authorities.

The trial and disposal of cases before the Criminal Courts.

72. Regarding the trial and disposal of cases, I will quote the following passages from the Judicial Commissioner's Report:—

"There was a large increase in the number of persons brought to trial "for non-bailable offences. This was the case in every Division, and almost "in every District. The number of cases rose from 2,915 in 1861 to 4,117 "in 1862, an increase of 1,202. The number of bailable offences for disposal was less "than that of the previous year by 12, the numbers being respectively 8,267 and 8,255. "* * * * * * "Altogether the number of cases brought to trial rose from "11,339 in 1861 to 12,372 in 1862, showing an actual increase of 1,033. Although "the work was much heavier, it was much better disposed of. Out of 22,556 persons "brought to trial, the cases of only 195 persons were pending at the end of the year. "At the close of 1861 149 persons, of whom 300 were in custody, awaited trial "in 131 cases. At the close of 1862 there were 195 persons in 78 cases, and of "these only 82 persons were in custody. This is very satisfactory—the more so, "because the improvement was not confined to a few districts, but was almost universal."

Average duration of cases.

73. In respect to the average duration of cases—that is in the time taken to dispose of trials in the Magistrate's Courts—there has been an improvement in most districts. The general average for 1862 was 11 days. In the best managed districts the average was about 9 days. In the Chutteesghur Districts there have always been long delays, which are partly to be accounted for by the great distances; but which will be lessened in future.

Release of Witnesses from attendance.

74. Out of the 53,928 witnesses summoned in the year before the Criminal Courts, 50,751 or 90 per cent. were detained in attendance at Court for only one day. Only 20 persons were kept for more than seven days, and these were in Sumbulpore, where the Magistrate happened to be absent on special duty.

Relative proportions of acquittals and convictions.

75. Of the persons brought to trial in the year 1861, 67 per cent. were convicted and 33 acquitted. In the year 1862 72 per cent. were convicted and 28 acquitted. The Judicial Commissioner remarks that this is satisfactory, and that the detailed Statements show the actual improvement to have been greater than that which the general averages represent. Mr. Strachey also writes :—

"It is further satisfactory to find that it is chiefly in regard to the more heinous "offences that the percentages of convictions have increased. I have no doubt that "both the Police and the Courts have been more careful than they used to be in "ordering apprehensions and in bringing people to trial."

Disposal of Sessions trials.

76. In my last Report, paragraph 110, I was obliged to note the extraordinary delays which had occurred in the disposal of Sessions trials in these Provinces. In serious cases eight or nine months would often elapse after a case was committed by the Magistrates before it was tried by the Judge. It is highly satisfactory to know that this can no longer be said. In the Saugor Division the average duration was 10 days; in the Jubbulpore Division 21 days. In the Chutteesghur Division, during the last six months of the year, it was 21 days; while in the first six months it was 187 days. In the Nagpore Division it was 68 days; and the Judicial Commissioner reports that the improvement would have been greater if there had not been pending, at the beginning of the year, a number of old cases belonging to 1861. It is to be observed that the corresponding average for Oude was 20 days, and for the Punjab 27 days. Complete orders have been issued for the periodical holding of Sessions in every district according to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Appeals before the several Commissioners.

77. The average of Criminal appeals before the Commissioners was, in the Jubbulpore Division, 10 days, and in the Saugor Division 14 days. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Divisions the averages were much higher, being 71 in the former—owing to old cases of 1861 having been decided. In Chutteesghur Division for the first six months of the year, before the Division was constituted a separate charge, the average was 136; while in the last six months it was only seven days. During the latter six months of the year the averages were not inferior to the Punjab average of 14 days, and the Oude average of 18 days.

Issue of appeals and committments to the Sessions.

78. Of the 1,091 persons sent by the Magistrates before the Courts of Session, 587 were convicted and 156 acquitted. These proportions indicate care and attention on the part of the Committing Officers. The appeals preferred to Commissioners were not very numerous—they

were preferred in about four per cent. of the decisions passed. But of the cases appealed the orders in about 20 per cent. were interfered with; this proportion is not quite satisfactory, and is less favorable than the result of the commitments to the Courts of Session. Appeals to Deputy Commissioners from the decisions of their subordinates were preferred in about 3½ per cent. of those decisions. Of the cases thus appealed, the orders in 33 per cent. were interfered with. This proportion is not a good indication.

79. The general result of the commitments to the Sessions and of the appeals before the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners justifies the following remark by the Judicial Commissioner:—

"Serious cases are carefully prepared, and the evidence is generally well brought "together; but in cases of a less important nature, the Courts are too apt to conduct "business in a slovenly manner."

Classification of punishments.

80. From an examination of the classification of sentences, the Judicial Commissioner justly infers that fine has been too little resorted to, and imprisonment too much preferred. The Magistrates have not made full use of the discretion allowed them by the Penal Code in respect to fine. But the sentences of imprisonment have been less severe than they used to be. The abolition of the punishment of flogging has had a powerful effect in swelling the sentences of imprisonment for short terms.

Punishment of juvenile offenders.

81. The abolition of the punishment of flogging, in the case of juvenile offenders, is thus commented on by the Judicial Commissioner in terms with which I quite agree:—

"The fact that 232 boys were imprisoned during the year, who, under the old Law, "would have been flogged and discharged, is matter for much regret. I look on such a "result as purely mischievous, and this alone would suffice to prove the necessity for fresh "legislation."

Court of the Judicial Commissioner.

82. In respect to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner on the criminal side, out of 112 persons committed, only five were acquitted. Out of 124 cases appealed, the orders were affirmed in 114.

Appointment of Honorary Magistrates in the Central Provinces.

83. The year 1862 is signalized, by the appointment, for the first time, of Honorary Magistrates. In my last Report, paragraphs 116 to 128, there were explained the reasons which render such appointment in these Provinces peculiarly desirable. These need not be repeated. It has since, however, become apparent by experience, that, owing to the great size of districts, the presence of persons in the interior, vested with Magisterial powers, will be of much aid to the new Police System; and will save, I believe, hundreds of complainants and witnesses from long journeys to the Central Stations. Towards the close of 1862 some 46 Honorary Magistrates were appointed; and several more have been since appointed. A further list of carefully selected names, 64 in number, has just been submitted to Government. Of all these two are Europeans, and the rest Natives. As most of these appointments are so recent, it would be premature to attempt a general Return of the work done by them. It appears, however, that up to the 1st July 1,074 cases had been decided by Honorary Magistrates,

84. The Court of Honorary Magistrates at Nagpore has been specially constituted, and may deserve mention. It now consists of 14 Members, representing all the influential classes of the Native community. Of the 14 there are six representing the Bhonsla family; one is the representative of the Gond Rajahs; two are leading Bankers; two are among the principal Mahomedan Gentry; two are retired servants of Government; and one is the largest Cotton Merchant in the country. The Members take it in turns among themselves to sit in Court, so that there shall be daily two sitting Magistrates. Their Court House consists of an old Palace in the heart of the city, which has been repaired and altered especially for their accommodation. The Court already possesses considerable prestige in the eyes of the community. Since its constitution in November 1862, up to the 1st July 1863, that is during a space of 9 months, it disposed of 726 cases, and 1,286 persons. The aggregate of work represents about half the Criminal business of the district, and was performed to the satisfaction both of the authorities and of the public. A special Report having been made of the Proceedings of this Court, the Viceroy was pleased to permit the expression of His Excellency's thanks to be conveyed to these Native Gentlemen.

The Court of Honorary Magistrates at Nagpore.

85. I shall conclude this Section by stating that the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure are here, as elsewhere, working excellently well. The Judicial Commissioner writes—"I believe that two more excellent Laws were never bestowed upon a country. I cannot exaggerate my sense of the advantage which, in this respect, these Provinces have gained."

86. But I may, perhaps, be excused in remarking that in *one* respect the Criminal Procedure has introduced a change for the worse. In our Courts the *viva voce* system, whereby the Judge recorded the notes of evidence with his own hand, and dispensed with the Vernacular record, was in full play. But now, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, an elaborate Vernacular record is rendered obligatory in almost all cases. I fully concur in the following remarks by the Judicial Commissioner:—

"The system of disposing of Criminal trials *viva voce*, under which the Vernacular record of the evidence was altogether dispensed with, has unfortunately been done away with by the Code of Criminal Procedure. During the first three quarters of the year the system was working well; I should have hoped to see it greatly extended, and I think that its abolition is much to be regretted. This is almost the only point in which I believe that the efficiency of our Courts had suffered by the introduction of the Code; but I look upon this loss as a very serious one * * * . The most paltry case of causing hurt, the most petty theft, and the most trivial case of intimidation and insult, must be tried under the elaborate procedure laid down for the trial of the most important and difficult cases."

87. In concluding his Report, Mr. Strachey writes—"I may say, with confidence, that great improvements in the administration of Criminal Justice were effected during the year." * * * .

"I believe that the real improvement was even greater than that which the Returns and Reports exhibit."

SECTION III.

Police.

88. In my last Report I showed how the Police in these Provinces had been reorganized; how the cost of defensive establishments in this arm had been reduced from 18 lakhs of Rupees or £180,000 to 11¼ lakhs of Rupees or £112,500 per annum; and how within the year 1862 two Regiments of Irregular Infantry, and 250 Horse, in all 2,000 men Horse and Foot, were discharged; the saving thereby to the State being 3¼ lakhs of Rupees, or £35,000. There is now not a vestige of the Irregular Regiments, or of the Military Police, or of the Levies, or of the old Civil Police; all these having been superseded by the organized Constabulary. It is now sufficient to state that this Constabulary, according to the scale last sanctioned by the Supreme Government, consists of the following Establishment:—

The new Police Establishment.

1	Inspector General per annum	...	Rupees	21,600
2	Deputy ditto ...	...	„	24,000
12	District Superintendents	...	„	87,600
9	Assistant ditto . .	...	„	40,800
44	Inspectors . .	. .	„	58,860
8	European Constables at 60	...	„	5,760
6,276	Foot Constabulary ...	...	„	5,70,624
613	Mounted ditto ...	...	„	1,07,712
	Office Establishment	...	„	26,100
	Allowance and Medical Establishment		„	22,512
	Clothing ...	...	„	42,574
	Contingencies ...	...	„	32,500
	Extra and Temporary.			
	Allowances, Pensions, &c.	...	„	17,964
6,965	Men.		Rupees	11,18,906 £111,890

The above Establishments are paid for from the State Revenues.

89. But within the year the Municipal Police has been thoroughly organized in the same manner as the Constabulary, and under the same departmental authority for all the Towns and Cities throughout these Provinces. There are now 82 places which have this Municipal Police; of which the total number amounts to 1,470 men of all ranks, at a cost of Rupees 1,09,996 or £10,999 per annum. This charge is defrayed from the proceeds of a local octroi, commonly called Town duties. Besides these there is no Town Police or watch and ward of any kind.

The Municipal Police.

90. The total Police Force may be thus exhibited:—

	Men of all ranks.	Cost per Annum.	
		Rupees.	£
Organized Constabulary	6,965	11,18,906	111,890
Municipal ditto	1,470	1,09,996	10,999
Total ...	8,435	12,28,902	122,889

This gives a rate of cost at Rupees 145 or £14-10 per man per annum.

91. In my last Report it was shewn that the new Police is moderate as compared with area and population, and is even below the standard laid down by the Police Commission; being in the proportion of one Police-man to every 1,191 inhabitants, and to every 15 square miles;* that the Establishment had been scrutinized throughout by Colonel H. Bruce, Inspector General of Police in India, acting specially on behalf of the Supreme Government; that the number and strength of all the Guards and all the posts had been revised; that there was a frequent intermixture with the inhabited tracts of wild, wooded and desolate country, favourable to crime and criminals; that there are three troublesome frontiers, adjoining Foreign territory, to be guarded; that every regard having been paid to financial requirements, the Police had been reduced to a minimum compatible with the performance of its varied duties and the ordinary protection of society. That such is really the case is confirmed by the experience of the year under review, especially as regards the Foot Police. Looking to the quarters where crime occurs, it is evident that the Police Posts in the interior are just sufficient and no more; that in order to maintain the proper watch and intercommunication, the posts have just enough men; that at the stations and principal places every Guard has been brought down to the lowest point; that escort of treasure is made as unfrequent as possible; that to furnish the Guards and escorts, the men are hard pressed, and can seldom be relieved according to the prescribed routine.

* These averages depend on Estimates of area and population, which are often vague and not perfectly correct.

Police reduced to a very moderate scale.

92. Recently, in view to give relief to the Foot Police, the personal Guards heretofore allowed to Civil Officers, when *not* marching, have been given up every where except in the Cuttacsghur Division. The scale of Guards previously allowed to Civil Officers, when marching, has been reduced. This measure is fully justified by the peaceful condition of the country and the general good character of the people. On the other hand, the severity of the work devolving on the Foot Police will be somewhat lessened.

Personal Guards dispensed with.

93. From the sanctioned establishment of the Foot Police, as already given, one reduction has been made within the year. There was a reserve of 220 men at Chanda; but since it has been determined to maintain a strong Military Detachment there,

Further special reductions in the Police Force.

this reserve has been broken up. This will cause a saving during the current year 1863-64 of Rupees 22,704 or £2,270. I have also proposed that the Jail and Treasury Guards should be taken by the Sepoys at Stations where Troops are stationed for reasons of general policy, such as Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Saugor and Hoshungabad. The principle has been approved by the Supreme Government; and, if carried into effect, it will cause a saving of 221 men, and Rupees 18,384 or £1,838 per annum. As troops are cantoned at these Stations, they can take the Jail and Treasury duties without any infraction of the principles recently established; for the rule that troops are never to be detached for duties that can be as well taken by the Police is strictly adhered to. Indeed, as explained in my last Report, all Military Detachments have been withdrawn from out-stations.

The Mounted Police.

91. The Mounted Police, 613 men of all ranks, as already exhibited in the Schedule, were formed, after a variety of reductions, from the remnant of the Mahratta Moolkee Horse. The honorable antecedents of these men were explained in my last Report. It may be admitted that the proportion of Mounted Police is high in these Provinces, as compared with some parts of India. But owing to the vast distances to be traversed, and the large number of scattered points to be watched, a certain strength in this arm will always be requisite. The present strength can, however, I believe, be somewhat reduced without any real difficulty arising. The Supreme Government have approved the proposal to make a reduction. The men do not, as a body, prove efficient. Many among them are excellent horsemen, are of a reliable character, and are possessed of considerable power of endurance. But many others have proved themselves useless as Police-men, and unable to conform to any reasonably strict system. The inefficient men are now being carefully eliminated, and the effect will probably be in the course of a few months to reduce the mounted branch by nearly one-half, at a saving of from Rupees 70,000 to 80,000, or £7 to 8,000 per annum.

Enforcement of responsibility of Landholders in Police matters.

95. Both the Judicial and the Police Authorities have urged the necessity of awakening the landholders, great and small, to a keener sense of their duties in respect to the prevention and detection of crime. Steps are being taken to remind them, practically, of their obligations both by ancient custom, by the terms of their tenure, and by the actual Law. But it is further proposed to vest a number of landholders with the Police powers in an honorary capacity. This measure appears, from the published Reports, to have been adopted with success in some parts of the Punjab. The list of landholders in the Central Provinces recommended for these powers (which has been submitted to Government) comprises—*firstly*, those Chiefs and Zemindaries, which have been mentioned in the preceding paragraph 83, who have regular jurisdiction and establishments of their own. *secondly*, Jagheerdars who have large estates; and *thirdly*, respectable persons, landholders and others residing in the interior of Districts. In the case of landholders these special powers and responsibilities will be superadded to the general obligation which binds all landholders to put down crime and to aid the Police. But the consciousness of being selected for character and position to exercise Police powers under the Law will, it is hoped, thoroughly enlist

The conferring of honorary Police powers on landholders.

the nominees on the side of order, and incite them to redouble exertions in their own estates, and induce them to exert a salutary influence over their neighbours. And, as a practical consideration, it is certain that if the landholders generally, or even an influential section of them, could be brought into a state of active opposition against the Criminal classes, that would do more to stop crime than any measure that could be devised.

96. In the Police Force already described no account is taken of the Police maintained by some independent Rajahs and Chiefs, nor of the Zemindaree Police, nor of the ordinary so-called Village Police; all of which are maintained by the people It is to be remembered that a considerable portion of the area of the country is occupied by the jurisdictions of Chiefs and Zemindars, which are all, more or less, under British control. Their existence affords important aid to the Police Department.

Native Chiefs possessing Police powers.

97. The Rajahs and Chiefs alluded to are those of Bastar, Kharonde (Kalahundy) and Kakeir, on the south-east of the Nagpore country, the thirteen Gurjat Rajahs in the Sumbulpore District; and the Mukrye Chief in the Hoshungabad District. All these maintain establishments of their own. The Zemindaree Police is maintained by various kinds of Chiefs called Zemindars on their own estates. These Zemindaree jurisdictions, exist largely in Chutteesghur, where they encircle the Raepore and Belaspore jurisdictions as with a girdle; in the country between the west bank of the Wyn Gunga and the Mundla Hills; in the heart of the Sautpoora Range near the Sanitarium of Mohton and the Puchmurree Hills; in the lower Valley of the Wyn Gunga near Chanda; along the left bank of the Godavery; and in various parts of the Sumbulpore District.

The Village Police Servants.

98. Regarding the Village Police much enquiry and consideration has been devoted to the subject during the year under review. The ultimate decision has not been quite reached; but at present the prescriptive status, rights and perquisites of the men called Village Police are being recorded and recognised. These men, who exist every where under various names, are found to be, according to ancient custom, Village *servants*, rather than Village Police. Whatever Police authority may exist in villages is centred in the landholders, or petty proprietors. *These* are the persons who, by the common law, and by long prescription, are really responsible for doing whatever may be emergently required in a case, until the action of the regular Police shall commence, and of rendering aid even after that action shall have commenced. It is to *them*, rather than to the Village servants, that we have a right to look for Police service. If the landholder be made to feel this responsibility, he will make such use of the Village servants as may be proper. But if the Village servants were unduly elevated, then the natural responsibility and authority of the landholders would be weakened. I am, therefore, *not* prepared, under existing circumstances in these Provinces, to advocate any thing like an organization or transformation of the Village servants into Village Police, or to interfere in their favor regarding their emoluments. They are really the servants of the Villages; their labour has its market value, and that is represented by the payments in kind, and the perquisites they receive. Their places must apparently be worth keeping, otherwise why have they

been retained from father to son, and why are they not abandoned at a time when every kind of labor is so much in demand? But if once the State begins to fix emoluments, or to do any thing beyond registering the status *quo ante*, then experience in these Provinces shews that the men will clamour for salaries. Then there would arise a charge of many lakhs of Rupees: which charge would have to be defrayed partly by the landholders, who would deem it a burden, and partly by the State in the shape of deductions from the Land Revenue assessment. Various steps have indeed, at various times, been taken in these Provinces in this direction. But I do not now propose to adopt any measure beyond that of recording the pre-existent rights and duties of Village servants, just as all other rights are recorded at the Settlement.

99. It will now be proper to note the result of the new Police system, so far as that can be known, during the first year of its operation.

Effect of the new Police system on the state of crime.

100. In the first place the system *cannot* as yet be affirmed to have caused any diminution of crime, nor to have made any marked impression on the criminal classes. It has been already seen (in the Section which treats of Criminal Justice) that the Returns for the past year shew an increase in all kinds of crime. That crime has really increased need not necessarily be inferred. But at all events it would be premature to aver that the prevention or repression of crime has been appreciably improved as yet. In one important respect, namely, dacoitee or gang robbery, the Police have as yet failed to stop or even to check that crime, which has still continued as bad as ever. I incline to think that in the first instance criminals took advantage of the change, in distribution of out-posts and such like arrangements, to make depredations. During the present rainy season the crime ceases from stress of weather (except on the frontier); but during the cold season some systematic arrangement must be made with a view to the final extinction of dacoitee. It has been shewn how dacoitees have occurred from external causes beyond the control of the Police. Still such cases ought to be met and followed up by the Police with spirit and energy. Now both on the Saugor and the Chutteesghur Frontiers instances have occurred of supineness or cowardice on their part, and one signal case occurred in which the Police themselves incited men to commit dacoitees with the secret intention of obtaining credit by capturing the dacoits. Of the general aggrégate of these cases, only one-third were prosecuted to conviction. In two cases, however, whole gangs were captured. In one case a gang was followed up into the wild country on the Sumbulpore Frontier, and several of the robbers taken after armed resistance. Of murders and of highway robberies the Police detected and prosecuted successfully about one-half. Whether the increased number under the head of house-breaking and ordinary theft afford any proof of real increase in these crimes is doubtful. But the increased number of cases under the head of cattle-stealing is so far creditable to the Police as shewing that they have brought more of these cases to light. And, inasmuch as the real occurrences of cattle-stealing do greatly exceed any detection yet attempted, it is to be hoped that the number appearing in the Returns may become greater still. Again the increased number of receivers of stolen property brought to detection by the new Police redounds to its credit. In respect to the recovery of

Gang Robbery or Dacoitee.

Offences against property.

stolen property, Rupees 58,191 or £5,819 were recovered by the Police in 1862, against Rupees 67,311 or £6,731 recovered by the old Police and the aggrieved parties together in 1861. This amount is equal to about one-third of the property represented to have been stolen, but the real aggregate value of property stolen can never be accurately known.

Total of cases brought to trial.

101. Of all the crimes and offences taken together, more cases were brought to trial in 1862 than in 1861, as follows:—

	Cases.	Persons.
1861	11,339	21,072
1862	12,372	22,556

The increase also was mainly in non-bailable offences, and this circumstance is also satisfactory. It is to be observed also that during the year under review the Police acted on the old law now repealed, which prohibited their interference in cases of theft without application from the aggrieved party, and were thus restrained from doing more than report the vast majority of thefts. The scope of their action in this respect has now been enlarged, and the result will, doubtless, be an increased number of thieves apprehended. Again of the persons brought to trial a greater proportion were convicted in 1862 than in 1861—70·20 per cent. of the whole tried being convicted in the latter year, and 68·74 per cent. in the former. All the above facts shew that the new Police were more successful in arresting and prosecuting criminals than the old. Still the want of detective power is one of the principal, perhaps the greatest, drawback in the new Police. The creation of a detective element must be a work of time, but as yet there is not much trace of it. On the whole the tendency of the facts is satisfactory, and seems to shew that a change for the better is setting in.

Executive Work of the Police.

102. In its executive capacity (as distinguished from the repression and detection of crime) the conduct of the new Police, as a body, has been good. In drill, order, external discipline, the men have reached a fair proficiency. They know the use of their arms and the few exercises that are prescribed. They have guarded a daily average of 3,421 prisoners distributed over 16 Jails; they have given sentries to seventy-five Treasuries and Court Houses in the stations and in the interior of Districts; they have occupied 367 posts; they have patrolled about 7,640 miles of road; they have escorted (50) Fifty Lakhs of Rupees of Treasure. These varied duties they have performed with unquestionable efficiency.

Education and Instruction of the Police.

103. Efforts have been made, with some success, to instruct the Police in Criminal Law and Procedure, and to diffuse a tincture of education even among the privates. The European Officers have passed good examinations in the prescribed tests. Normal Schools are established at four of the principal stations, where the Native Officers and selected privates may study the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure, and be examined by examiners appointed for that purpose. At the head-quarters of every District there is a School where privates may learn to read and write, and a School for the education of the sons of Police-men, and all these Schools are well attended.

104. The number of Police-men punished by the Magistrates during the year is as follows :—

	Fined.	Imprisoned.	Transported.	Hanged.	Total.
Chief Constables ...	3	3	...	...	6
Head Constables ...	11	6	...	...	17
Constables	19	40	1	1	61
Total ...	33	49	1	1	84

Besides these, there have been 16 Chief Constables, 33 Head Constables and 219 Constables dismissed departmentally. In many cases these punishments were inflicted for bribery and corruption. The occurrence of such convictions confirms the impression that the new system possesses superior facilities for the detection and punishment of misconduct of the Police themselves. In respect to dismissals, it is to be noted that, at the outset, many men were admitted who proved unequal to the exigencies of the new system. It is to be hoped that dismissals will become less and less frequent. The consciousness of permanency and the hope of promotion by merit are essential to the popularity of the service.

Satisfactory relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

105. The relations between the Police Department and the Magistracy have been uniformly good and honourable to both parties. Disputes and jealousies have been happily unknown. At first the Deputy Commissioners, supposing the Police to be an entirely separate and independent Department, misapprehended the extent of their own responsibility for the Police administration, and the degree of supervision required from themselves. These misapprehensions have been removed by the various instructions issued; and the Deputy Commissioners fully understand that the Police, though Departmentally independent, is still an instrument under the control of the Magistrates.

Good character of the New Police.

106. The Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners almost invariably report well of the conduct and character of the new Police, and consider it to constitute an improvement over the old. This testimony, from authorities necessarily impartial and well informed, must carry considerable weight. So far as I can learn, it appears that the Police are now less oppressive and altogether more considerate towards the people than formerly. An improvement in all respects was indeed to be looked for by reason of the additional organization, the increased European supervision, and the advantages offered to every grade from the private upwards. If such improvement were not perceptible, there would be ground for disappointment. But it is satisfactory to know that there is no disappointment, and that reasonable anticipations are realized. Though I have stated the shortcomings of the new Police without sparing any, still I have tried to do justice to its merits. I do certainly, for one, believe in the excellence of the new system. Looking to the zeal and ability of the Inspector General (Colonel Taylor) and of his Officers, I anticipate that this system will be worked well; and that, if so worked, it will remedy existing deficiencies, and result eventually in complete success.

Abolition of the Thuggee Department.

107. The orders of the Viceroy have been received for the abolition of the separate Thuggee Department in these Provinces, as in all other British Territories. Most of the special establishments belonging to that Department are either to be discharged, or incorporated with the regular Police. The excellent School of Industry at Jubbulpore, for the reformation of Thugs and the proper education of their children, is to be retained. The success of the operations for the suppression of Thuggee, carried on through many years, has been so great, that the special Thuggee Agency can be dispensed with. It is right, however, to remember the immense debt of gratitude which Native society in these Provinces owes to that Department. It was within the limits of the Nerbudda country that Sir W. Sleeman first began those proceedings against the Thugs which have ended in the apparent extinction of that dreadful tribe. The gain thereby obtained in arresting the loss of innocent life, and in protecting the roads from the most awful and mysterious crimes, is great beyond estimation. The achievements of the Thuggee Department will be long and thankfully remembered by the people in these Provinces as among the happiest triumphs of British Rule. It is right that I should add that the present General Superintendent, Lieutenant-Colonel Hervey, has been very successful in his Departmental proceedings in this part of India, and has afforded cordial assistance to this administration.

SECTION IV.

Jails.

Inspector of Prisons appointed.

108. In my last Report (paragraphs 156 to 158) I gave a general description of the Jails in these Provinces, to which description, there is, as yet, but little to be added. During the year under review, however, an Inspector of Prisons has been appointed. That Officer did not join till the year was half over; but he has inspected all the Jails in these Provinces. This measure has not, of course, been yet fruitful of results; but it has laid the foundation on which the future structure of reform will be raised.

Jail buildings.

109. In respect to Jail buildings within the year, the following operations have been carried out. A vacant Military Hospital at Nagpore has been fitted up and converted into an excellent Jail, holding two hundred prisoners, and the work-sheds of the old Jail in the city have been improved. Complete designs and estimates for a new Central Jail have been framed, and a carefully selected site has been prepared; it is hoped the work will be very shortly commenced. At Raepore designs and estimates have been prepared for a Central Jail for the Chutteesghur Division and the work has been commenced. At Belaspore (where the old Jail was nothing more than a hovel of the meanest kind) an old Military Hospital has been converted into an excellent Lock-up for fifty prisoners. At Sumbulpore a new Lock-up or small Jail has been designed and commenced. Thus the Chutteesghur Division (where formerly the Jails were of the worst description) is being provided with a new set of Prisons. At Chanduh a temporary Jail has been constructed. At Mundla, a new Lock-up is being designed.

110. As a rule, the Jails are over-crowded; a result to which the abolition of flogging has partly contributed. The existing accommodation was calculated to be sufficient for 2,424 prisoners; whereas the strength on the 31st December 1862 amounted to 4,020 prisoners. Considering the state of the Jail buildings, this circumstance is likely to cause anxiety. The number of prisoners, too, appears to be on the increase: the number rose from 3,820 on 1st January 1862 to 4,034 on 1st January 1863.

Increase in the number of Prisoners.

111. The general average charge per head per annum for 1862 amounts to Rupees 41-10-4, or £4 3*s.* 3½*d.*, which is somewhat less than the average for 1861, namely Rupees 42-9-6, or £4. 5*s.* 2½*d.* The decrease in 1862 is, however, really more than it seems, as the price of provisions rose considerably in that period. The average is, however, still too high; and it is to be hoped that the Inspector will succeed in effecting a reduction during the current year. As the first step in this direction, a proper scale of Dietary has been fixed, the former allowance having been in some cases excessive. It is to be borne in mind that the cost of guarding the prisoners will, until Jail buildings shall have been completed, be higher here than in older provinces.

Average cost of Prisoners.

112. The in-door labor system has been more strictly enforced than heretofore in most Jails. But at some stations, owing to the extreme scarcity of labor, the services of the prisoners for local works out of doors continue to be indispensable. In some Jails the number of prisoners detached for menial and miscellaneous duties, within the precincts of the Jail, was found to be excessive, tending to idleness and waste of time. This has been rectified.

In-door labor system.

113. It follows, from the above, that the system of Jail manufactures has not been thoroughly introduced. Besides the difficulty in respect to the attendance of prisoners at this kind of work, there is generally a deficiency of workshops, which want can only be gradually supplied. But its operation has been increased during the year in the principal Jails. The direct cash profits from the sale of Jail manufactures has amounted to 6,615 Rupees or £661; and the value of articles manufactured by prisoners for prison use is estimated at Rupees 13,300 or £1,330. The manufactures consist mainly of durree, carpets, blankets, cloths, horse gear, and the like. There are Paper Manufactures in the Nagpore and Jubbulpore Jails, and also Lithographic Presses, which are working successfully. Gardens are attached to nearly all the Jails, and some of them are in excellent order.

Jail Manufactures.

114. Out of 3,736 prisoners, there were 509 cases of recommitment, that is, prisoners who had been in Jail before, or one out of every seven. This is an unfavorable sign.

115. Some progress has been made in all the Jails in instructing the prisoners to read and write. These forced scholars have been examined by Officers of the Educational Department; 1,205 prisoners out of 3,736 are reported to be able to read or write.

116. The good behaviour system, whereby prisoners who have conducted themselves well are rewarded by mitigation of terms of their sentence, is being introduced; and Rules for that purpose are being framed.

Improvements in Jail discipline.

117. Owing to the general want of cells, there has been but little solitary or separate confinement; and in the present state of the buildings the grouping of prisoners according to classes of crime is very imperfect.

Health of Prisoners.

118. That the general health of the prisoners has been good, will be seen from the following Return:—

Daily average number of prisoners in Jail.	Daily average percentage of sick.	Percentage of deaths during the year on daily average number of prisoners.
3,873·87	5·07	4·12

At the present time of writing, however, Cholera has made its appearance in three Jails.

119. The general conduct of the prisoners would appear to be good from the small returns of punishments inflicted. The number of escapes 47 (out of which 30 were recaptured) is large; but this is partly owing to the defectiveness of the Jail buildings.

120. At some stations the Civil Surgeons have undertaken the charge of the Jails, in subordination to the Deputy Commissioners, and have rendered good service in that capacity. I hope that in all cases a fixed scale of pecuniary allowance may be attached to the charge of the Jails. The Jail at Nagpore has been placed under the immediate control of the Inspector of Prisons.

CHAPTER IV.—REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

The yield of the Land Tax.

121. In my last Report the Land Tax for the year 1862-63 was estimated at 524 lakhs or £522,500. The demand, however, for the year has amounted to 53,51,400 Rupees, or £535,140, and the amount actually collected within the year to Rupees 53,46,553, or £534,655. The actual result is slightly above the estimate, and the difference, such as it is, appears on the right side. The Land Tax is flourishing; there has been no agricultural distress, and no important reduction of demand has been found necessary any where. On the other hand, the rates at which the Land Tax is fixed are known to be light. There is no difficulty whatever in collection; no coercive processes are ever resorted to; the only process required is the issue of notices to pay (dustuks), and these are diminishing yearly. Thus there is no drawback to the satisfaction with which a slight increase is to be regarded. The present figure is the highest which the Land Tax has ever reached in these Provinces. The prices of agricultural produce have risen during the year, and the exportation of grain from the Nerbudda Valley towards Bombay and from the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Country towards the Deccan has been considerable. These circumstances are favorable to the landholders in these Provinces.

Tenure of Land.

122. In my last Report, paragraphs 174 to 191, the tenure of land in these Provinces was explained. The conclusion was that, for the most part, the villages or estates were held

by farmers of the middle class, not large and not petty. These farmers are now being recognized as proprietors, so that generally each Village will belong to a single proprietor with tenants under him. These proprietors will hold a medium position, less than that of a large Zemindar, but above that of a peasant proprietor. Their proprietary rights in their respective estates will be in all respects absolute, subject only to the payment of Land Tax. The tenure (as it is about to be fully developed) has originated in circumstances of long existence; and it must be accepted for good or evil. But whatever other advantages it may or may not have it does so far benefit society, in that it strengthens and fosters a good middle class. There will be the tenant at will, the tenants with right of occupancy, the small proprietor, the Zemindar, the rural Chief; and the gradation will thus be complete. The class of village proprietors scattered all over the interior of the country may become an engine for good, inasmuch as their power is widely extended, and any beneficial influence successfully exerted upon them will be sure to extend itself throughout their estates. Thus they may become an useful link between the Government and the mass of the agricultural population.

123. But this present state of transition from farmer to proprietor is necessarily to them one of anxiety, which will only be quite dispelled when the settlement, now in progress, shall be completed. Every month's experience shows the desirability of bringing the settlement operations to a satisfactory completion; while this is pending the landholders refrain from expending the capital, or making the exertions which are necessary to improve their estates, or even to maintain existing cultivation at its proper standard. Moreover, until the terms of the settlement are finally declared, these people constantly evince unreasonable suspicion of the intentions of Government. Every effort has been made to elucidate to them the vast improvement in their condition and prospects; and in every District I have had large numbers of them assembled together and have explained the whole subject to them. In the present condition of these Provinces it is a measure of primary and fundamental importance to determine the property in land as a right in itself immutable, subject only to the payment of a moderate Land Tax fixed for long periods.

Progress of the settlement.

124. Within the year under review great efforts have been made to advance the settlement in all Districts of these Provinces. The operations have been commenced *ab initio* in seven Districts within the year; in the remaining ten Districts they have been proceeded with vigorously. Thus the settlement is in progress in all the seventeen Districts of these Provinces. Three new Settlement Officers (Civil Servants) have been appointed, and five Deputy Commissioners have been (by the appointment of substitutes) relieved of their District duties, so that they might devote themselves to the settlement. Thirteen Assistants and Extra Assistants (including Uncovenanted European and Native) have been employed in deciding settlement cases, and subordinate Officials to the number of about 600 have been engaged in the work.

Special inspection of the settlement.

125. In order that the stages in the work—such as the demarcation of boundaries, the field measurement, the compilation of statistics, the registration of rights, the method of investigating tenures, and the like, might be arranged according to the best experience with an

uniform practice and procedure, in order that the various Establishments might be apportioned to the several branches of work in the most economical manner; and in order that the work itself might be abridged and shorn of all superfluities. A special Officer was, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, deputed to inspect all the settlements. This Officer, Captain Hector Mackenzie, Secretary to Chief Commissioner, was thus deputed, and visited the Settlement Offices in every District (save Chutteesghur); and, after a lengthened examination, it is hoped that great improvements in system have been effected, and much economy introduced.

Assessment of the Land Tax.

126. Previously to the year under review, the operations had for some years been confined chiefly to the measurement of the land; an essential preliminary which had generally been well performed. In the Nagpore District the assessment of a small portion had been declared; but in no other part of these Provinces had any assessments of the Land Tax itself been made. Considering, then, that the field measurement had been made to a large extent every where, the first care during the working season of 1862-63 has been to compile and collate the masses of available statistics, and to frame the assessments of the Land Tax. To this object the energies of every Settlement Officer have been directed. The work necessarily occupies some little time, inasmuch as the Assessing Officer must visit *every* village, or nearly every village which is to be assessed. The result is that the assessments are now being framed and brought out in eleven Districts. During the current recess season, which terminates in October, the following assessment will be declared:—

Districts.	Total Villages assessed.	Total Revenue assessed.	
		Rupees.	£.
Saugor	675	1,69,597	16,959
Dumoh	686	1,46,130	14,613
Jubbulpore	2,435	4,74,251	47,425
Nursingpore	611	1,90,780	19,078
Hoshungabad	472	85,039	8,503
Baitool	1,390	1,39,298	13,929
Seonee	737	1,27,241	12,724
Chindwarra	220	38,393	3,839
Nagpore	1,756	6,01,937	60,193
Wurdu	988	3,86,129	38,612
Bhundara	491	1,20,774	12,077
Total ...	10,461	24,79,569	2,47,956

The aggregate represents nearly half the Land Revenue of these Provinces as having

been assessed. This is among the most important of all the operations undertaken by this Administration during the year under review.

Average rates of Assessment.

127. These proceedings enable me to state the rates per acre at which the Land Tax in these Provinces is to fall. In the Saugor District the average rate per cultivated acre will be—

	Rs.	As.	P.	£	*s.*	*d.*
In Dumoh	0	10	0	0	1	3
In Nursingpore	0	15	0	0	1	10½
In Seonee	0	9	0	0	1	1½
In Nagpore	0	12	0	0	1	6
In Jubbulpore	1	4	0	0	2	6
In Hoshungabad	0	8	0	0	1	0
In Baitool	0	8	0	0	1	0
In Wurda	0	10	0	0	1	3
In Chindwarra	0	9	0	0	1	1½
In Bhundara	0	12	0	0	1	6

It may be, without doubt, affirmed that these rates are moderate, representing only a small proportion of the value of the gross produce, and leaving a large margin to the landholder for his own profit and for the improvement of his estate.

Period of limitation of the Government Demand.

128. The period over which the limitation of the Government demand, according to the new assessment, is to extend is thirty years for all districts alike. This has been sanctioned by Government. It has also been recommended that the boon of a permanent settlement, that is the limitation of the Government demand in perpetuity, should be conceded to those landholders who might have brought their estates to a high state of cultivation. The Government have decided that, after the lapse of ten years, from the commencement of the new settlement, and therefore even within the period of that settlement, those landholders who may be thought worthy of the concession, and who may desire a perpetual limitation of the Government demand, may have their assessments revised with a view to such limitation in perpetuity being declared.

Declaration of Proprietary Rights.

129. Second only in importance to the declaration of assessment is the determination of proprietary right, as already described. This has been judicially done in 5,820 villages up to 1st July. In all the Districts taken together there are hundreds of these important cases being decided every month. In the cases thus decided the farmer is placed out of suspense by being declared proprietor, and can then, with confidence, set about improving his estate.

Revenue-free Tenures.

130. During the year also 16,365 cases of rent-free* tenures have been investigated. Some 19,881 villages have had their boundaries marked off, and 17,203 villages have been measured up field by field, including estates measured in previous years, and also those measured in the current; there must now be some 43,000 square miles of cultivated

* These are claims to hold the land free of Land Tax, and should more properly be called Revenue-free.

and inhabited country in these Provinces measured up field by field, and piece by piece.

Suits for Rent.

131. The Revenue Authorities decided 5,031 suits for rent in 1862-63 against 4,156 in 1861-62. These will in future be decided judicially under Act X. of 1859 by the Regular Courts.

Apportionment of Waste Lands.

132. A set of Rules to check the apportionment of waste lands, to which no reasonable claim could be substantiated, has been framed, and obtained the approval of the Viceroy. Without these precautions, there is apprehension that many square miles, as yet of unknown value, might be inadvertently allotted to village landholders. These men would, if unchecked, claim quantities of waste which they had never even seen or trodden, and with which they could do nothing. But while the just rights of the State are guarded, the rights of individuals in respect to grazing, to pasturage, to wood cutting and the like are carefully respected. All special claims are heard; and even where no right is proved, a liberal allowance of waste is made in proportion to the cultivated land.

Tenant Right.

133. In my last Report, paragraph 190, it was mentioned that tenant right is being protected, and that cultivators are having their hereditary title (involving right of occupancy) examined and recognized.

Village Accountants.

134. The body of Native Village Accountants (Putwarees) are receiving in the Settlement Department the best practical education in their duties.

Settlement Code.

135. In order that the Settlement Department might be instructed in its duties, all the former orders issued by various authorities at various times have been collected, and selections made; to these supplementary orders on fresh points have been added, and the whole having been framed into a complete Settlement Code have been submitted to the Viceroy for sanction. The Code comprises not only the principal matters relating to procedure of the settlement, but also to the various rights, interests, privileges and responsibilities, which this great operation creates, as affecting all classes of the agricultural community.

The large Zemindars.

136. The status and rights of the large Zemindars, mentioned in paragraph 191 of my last Report, have been specially enquired into. I have myself seen them all, and visited most of their estates. A special Report on the subject will shortly be submitted to Government.

Special Settlement Commissioner.

137. In my last Report, paragraph 199, the reasons were explained why a special Commissioner is needed to superintend the settlement operations. During this last season, as already stated, the settlements have in all districts (save Chutteesghur) been inspected by an Officer specially deputed for that purpose, and great advantage has been derived thereby. But the experience thus gained has shewn more completely than ever how much a permanent supervising Officer is needed to secure uniformity of practice; adaptation of all establishments to the economical and prompt performance of work; abridgment of unnecessary

business; and due consideration of all rights and interests to be dealt with. For these objects the Viceroy has recently been pleased to sanction the appointment of a Settlement Commissioner, who will strictly supervise all the Settlement operations throughout the Central Provinces. The constant scrutiny which will thus be maintained will not only cause the work to be better done, and the enquiries to be more complete, but will also repay the cost of the special inspection by the economies that will be enforced.

Repair of Tanks.

138. In my last Report, paragraph 206, the necessity of examining and repairing the numerous tanks of various sizes in the Nagpore Province was explained. Since then an Officer has been appointed as Superintendent of Irrigation with a small Establishment of Native Surveyors. During the season of 1862-63 about 1,550 tanks in the Nagpore Province have been examined. Of the smaller ones many, indeed most, were found to be in good order. Among the larger ones many were found to be in need of repair. In some cases the repair was undertaken by the people themselves; in many cases they were allowed an advance from Government to help in defraying the cost, and to be repaid hereafter by annual instalments; and in some special cases assistance was given from Local Funds. The total sum for repair of tanks granted by advances and from Local Funds during the year amounts to Rupees 38,737 or £3,873. Several important sites for possible future tanks or lakes have been discovered, as also the remains of old tanks in the depth of the jungles, either left unfinished by their authors, or else neglected for ages, and now abandoned without even the faintest tradition as to when, how, or by whom, they were made.

SECTION II.—OTHER TAXES.

Salt Tax, Excise, Stamps, &c.

The yield of the Salt Tax.

139. The mode in which the Salt Tax is levied in these Provinces was described in my last Report, paragraphs 209 to 215, and I need not repeat what is there explained. For the year 1861-62 the total collections under this head amounted to Rupees 9,95,290 or £99,529. For the year under review 1862-63, they amounted to Rupees 12,25,434 or £122,543, showing an increase over the preceding year of Rupees 2,30,144 or £23,014. This increase, amounting to 2¼ lakhs of Rupees (£22,500), must be in part owing to improved management and increased consumption. But it is also owing in part to the Districts of Hoshungabad and Baitool and part of Nursingpore District having been brought under taxation for the first time during 1862-63. These Districts were formerly exempted virtually. But by local arrangements they are now made to pay the same Salt Tax as their neighbours, and the receipts from them have, during the last year, 1862-63, amounted to Rupees 1,05,054 or £10,505. The unnecessary immunity enjoyed by the Town of Saugor has also been abolished within the year, and that has caused an increase to the revenue.

140. The rate of duty at three Rupees or *six* shillings per maund of 82 lbs., which has been fixed uniformly with that of the North-Western Provinces, is somewhat high for

these Provinces, and is in some places complained of. So far as the interests of these Provinces are concerned, there would be no objection to the duty being lowered; but this could not be effected while the North-Western Provinces' rate remains as at present, inasmuch as uniformity is indispensable.

Customs Lines.

141. At present the duty is levied on two lines: one called the Imperial and one the Local. The manner in which these two lines are connected with each other is shewn in the annexed Sketch Map. It would be desirable to have, if possible, one line that should follow the outter limit of these Provinces on their Western and South-Western Frontiers. I have recommended that this arrangement be tried: if it should succeed, there would be considerable economy in the cost of collection; which now amounts to 2¾ per cent. on the gross yield for the Imperial line, and 9¼ per cent. for the Local line. There would still remain Eastern Nagpore or Chutteesghur, which must always have a special line of its own.

Excise on Spirits.

142. The excise on spirits amounted to Rupees 8,01,840, or £80,184 in 1861-62, and to Rupees 6,61,323 or £66,132 in 1862-63, shewing a decrease on the latter of Rupees 1,40,517 or £14,051. The decrease is owing to the introduction of the Sudder Distillery system into the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts. The old system, which farmed out to the highest bidder the exclusive privilege of selling liquor, was objectionable; as tending to artificially encourage drinking, and as raising up a class of men under direct Government patronage whose interest it must be to diffuse a taste for spirits among the people. Whatever the theory may have been, the practical effect of this system in these Provinces was to render liquor extremely cheap, and to place it within the reach of even the poorest classes. The new method (called the Sudder Distillery system) withholds all such encouragement, and merely prescribes certain places where alone liquor may be distilled by those who choose to do so, and removed only on payment of a fixed rate of duty by licensed venders. The effect of this is to enable the fiscal authorities to maintain the duty at the highest rate possible, without giving rise to smuggling. The tendency of these measures is to diminish consumption, and yet to obviate any serious fiscal loss by raising the maximum of revenue on the minimum of spirits. The object of the change, however, is not to increase revenue, but to obviate the moral objections to which the old system was justly open. If, in order to effect such a reform, some loss of excise revenue should be incurred, the sacrifice will not be material.

The Sudder Distillery system.

143. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts the new system had caused no appreciable loss of revenue in the best populated Districts. But in the Hill Districts (Seonee, Mundla and Baitool) the excise revenue has very greatly decreased. The manner in which the decrease has occurred is somewhat remarkable. These hilly regions are chiefly inhabited by Gonds and also by other tribes of similar character, such as Gowlees, Mehras, Purdhans, and the like. In the present generation these people, and especially the Gonds, are notoriously addicted to liquor; and it is apprehended that they are degenerating, perhaps decreasing in numbers, and lapsing into savagery. Yet it has been often asserted that in a former generation they were not quite such drunkards, and were a somewhat finer race; and that since the introduction of British rule their habits of inebriation have become aggravated. That the Gonds of former ages were vastly superior to their descendants of

the present day is evident from the traces which survive of the power of former Gond Dynasties.

144. That the consumption of spirits has, in some way, been unduly stimulated, is inferrible from the Excise Revenue in these particular places. In Districts which are so poor and wild, that but little Land Revenue could be collected from them, there has been realized a considerable excise on spirits. So that it would seem that liquor was one of the principal articles of consumption. This may be seen as follows:—

District.	Land Revenue.		Excise on Spirits.	
	Rupees.	£.	Rupees.	£.
Seonee	1,36,456	13,645	54,875	5,487
Mundla	45,586	4,558	24,132	2,413
Baitool	1,40,732	14,073	59,052	5,905

It is, indeed, certain that, for many years, the Excise Contractors have hawked about their spirits with unhappy success among the Gond population. I may cite the following instance as one out of many. I derive this instance from the authority of my Secretary Captain Mackenzie, when recently employed on special duty. This Officer writes thus:—

Abuses of the old system.

"A Native Officer of the Salt Customs in the Seonee District told me a specific "instance of the power of the Abkaree or Government "license-holders over the Gonds. He said that in the "course of one of his tours, having deviated from his line of beat, he came upon a kind "of open-air Council or gathering of the Gonds in the depths of the Forest. There was "apparently some excitement; and, on the Customs Officer showing himself, one of the "party immediately made towards him, and appealed to him to procure a solution of the "difficulty in his favor. The difficulty was this: The Gond had been, or was about to "be, married. It was the custom for a certain amount of liquor to be taken on such occa-"sions from the license-holder. But some dispute had arisen on this particular occasion "in regard either to the quantity or the price. The Gond, when encouraged to speak out "by the Customs Official, stoutly maintained that he did not want the liquor at all. It "was, doubtless, customary to take a certain quantity on these occasions, but the terms "which the license-holder now wished to impose were too hard. There was the license-"holder in the midst, and before him were the earthen pots of liquor which was about to "be forced upon these poor simple savages.

"Among others, Ramdeen, the well known landholder of Shahpore in the Baitool "District, told me that the sway of the license-holders over the Gonds was little short of "absolute. He held the farm of several Forest villages, and had, of course, full means of

" knowing the manner in which the license-holders used the influence they had acquired. " But although, as he assured me, that influence sometimes took the form of cruelty, so " completely were the Gonds subject to it, that he could never obtain information on such " points direct from those Gonds who most suffered from it."

145. To illustrate the subject further, I may observe that the Gonds are known to be in the habit of bartering the produce of their lands for liquor. A dealer will come to these people and take timber, or fuel, or lac, or other articles; and pay for them not in money, but in spirits. Again, I have heard it said by Executive Officers on the new road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, that the Gonds, who form gangs of workmen, and who receive large wages, spend the greater part of their earnings in drink. Further in many of the Gond villages the aspect is as follows: In the depth of the Forest there are a few wood and straw huts of the meanest kind. In the midst of these there is a house of a better description than the others, with a respectable enclosure, indicating the existence of superior resources. At its door there are sitting some people half naked, with stupified visages and glaring eyes, the victims of drinking. This is the spirit shop kept by a person who holds a Government license and monopoly. Sometimes the Liquor Vendor would buy up the scanty property of these wretched people, and having absorbed or exhausted one hamlet would move on to another. These shops have now disappeared, or greatly decreased in numbers, owing to the enhanced price resulting from the new system.

Effect of the new system.

146. The effect at present is to greatly diminish drinking among the Gonds. This change is attested by various authorities who are in a position to have good information on the subject. Among them may be cited Captain Thomson, Deputy Commissioner of Seonee, who, from the position of his District, probably knows more about the Hill people than any other Civil Officer in these Provinces. This Officer writes, referring to the effect of the new or Sudder Distillery system:—

" As a rule, I think that the liquor-drinking classes have given up drinking. Every " landholder whom I have spoken to on the subject, and even the drinking classes them- " selves and the spirit dealers, have all told me so. I should say, most undoubtedly, that " illicit manufacture to any extent has not yet been resorted to by the people. The " landholders particularly rejoice in this state of things, as it saves them from the " piecemeal theft of grain and other articles which was formerly so extensively resorted " to by their servants who exchanged it for liquor. They declare also that the " drinking classes are much better for the change; that, instead of spending 20 or 30 " Rupees (£2 or 3) a year in liquor, they have been able to keep the money to clothe and " feed their families"

147. The following testimony is offered by Captain Pearson, Superintendent of Forests, whose employment brings him in frequent contact with these people. This Officer writes:—

" I think that the Sudder Distillery system works excellently well, and keeps the " Gonds out of liquor. They really get little or none now, and themselves fully acknow- " ledge the benefit of being without it. By the old system it was forced down their

"throats. It was grievous to see the way they were going to ruin * * *. I believe "that much smuggling will not take place, I see more of the Gonds than most people * "* *, and I always grieved over the way in which these people were being liquored off "the face of the earth."

148. Again, in his last Forest Report, Captain Pearson writes thus regarding the Southern part of the Baitool District :—

"The landholders say that the cause of this emigration to Berar is partly the facility "with which liquor is procured there * * *. There is not a Gond, whom I have "spoken to, who does not acknowledge how thankful they are that they are no longer able "to obtain ardent spirits. Heretofore custom has obliged a Gond to get drunk on every "occasion of ceremony, and the women were as bad as the men * * *. The change "has, no doubt, been rendered much more easy by the prohibition to fell teak timber, "which was commonly paid for in spirits. *And I am sure that the great instruments in "promoting the use of ardent spirits were the timber dealers.*"

149. It may appear strange that the Gonds, missing their accustomed supply, do not resort to illicit manufacture; and should be deterred therefrom by a mere prohibition. But experience in another Department, namely that of Forest Conservancy, has shewn these Hill people to be naturally fearful of disobeying orders issued by authority. Again it may be that they are not utterly addicted to drinking; and that, since the withdrawal of temptation offered by the contractors, they do not care to make any great effort to obtain liquor. And further the landholders of other castes, who employ them largely as farm tenants and labourers, are strongly in favor of the change. Still the rise of illicit manufacture is a thing to be apprehended. There will be many ways of guarding against it. But even if it were to arise, that would be a lesser evil than the demoralization of the Hill people by the direct operation of our fiscal system.

150. I have recommended the introduction of the system into the Nagpore Province. In the well inhabited tracts there is the probability that it will diminish consumption, but increasing the taxation upon the quantity consumed will maintain the Excise Revenue. In the wild and hilly tracts it will, by removing extraneous temptation, so far check consumption as to cause a falling off in the excise. But such loss would be matter for no regret in consideration of the justice of the change and its good effect upon the habits of the people. In that case, however, additional precautions against illicit manufacture will have to be taken.

Income Tax.

151. The Income Tax collections amount to Rupees 4,31,257 or £43,125 for 1862-63, against Rupees 4,00,055 or £40,005 in 1861-62. It was to have been expected that, instead of an increase, there would be a decrease in 1862-63 by reason of the remission of the tax upon smaller incomes. The increase now shewn in the collections has arisen, not from the assessment being enhanced, but from the balances of former years having been realized. For some time there was, at Nagpore itself, some remissness in the collection of the tax; this has now been remedied.

152. The old paudroe or House Tax in the Nagpore Province, an impost sanctioned by long usage, has been carefully revised and assessed. The last assessments amount to Rupees 2,03,015 or £20,301.

House Tax.

153. The Stamp Revenue realized under the operation of the new Stamp Law (Act X. of 1862) has amounted to Rupees 3,50,799 or £35,979, being an increase of Rupees 97,330 or £9,773 over the realizations of 1861-62, which amounted to Rupees 2,62,469 or £26,246. The new Law has caused a great extension in the sale of Stamps. The sale much depends upon the number of Vendors whom the Authorities may succeed in establishing. There are now established Vendors,—official 49, non-official 154.

Stamp Revenue.

154. The Sugar Tax in these Provinces belongs to two categories:—

First.—The Tax levied on the Imperial Line on sugar passing from Hindoostan to Bombay and the Deccan amounted in 1861-62 to Rupees 1,59,028 or £15,902, but has fallen in 1862-63 to Rupees 1,00,152 or £10,015. This decrease is attributed to a more fluctuation of trade caused by the absorption of all available carriage on the Bombay route for the cotton traffic.

Abolition of the Local Sugar Tax.

Second.—The Local Tax levied on home-grown saccharine produce, amounting to Rupees 75,973 or £7,597, was found to be injurious in its operation; and it has been now abolished with the sanction of the Supreme Government.

155. The Opium Revenue has amounted to Rupees 18,176 or £1,817 in 1862-63 against Rupees 20,101 or £2,010 in the previous year. This is raised by local taxation. The questions connected with the Opium Revenue of these Provinces have been fully examined within the year. It is not desired to foster the growth of opium for local consumption. But it is found that raw opium is produced in the Baitool, Nagpore and Wurda Districts; and is carried in considerable quantities to Indore, and there having been made up and weighed in the established scales, is sent to Bombay for exportation to China. But the Baitool opium, if sent to Indore to be weighed for Bombay, has to make a long and unnecessary circuit. If scales were established at Nagpore, such opium could be more conveniently sent by direct route to Bombay; and it seems probable that if such facilities near at hand were offered, many parts of the Nagpore District would grow opium for exportation *viâ* Bombay. The sanction of the Supreme Government for the establishment of scales at Nagpore has been obtained.

The Opium Revenue.

156. The levy of a Tobacco Tax in these Provinces was contemplated, and arrangements with that view were commenced. But considerable difficulties became apparent; and a full Report having been submitted, it was decided by the Supreme Government to abandon the intended impost altogether.

Abandonment of the Tobacco Tax.

157. The gross collections of Forest Revenue amounted in 1862-63 to Rupees 60,843 or £6,084 against Rupees 64,502 or £6,450 in 1861-62.

Forest and Miscellaneous Revenues.

158. The Miscellaneous Revenues, exclusive of all the above items, amounted to Rupees 226,483 or £22,648 in 1862-63, against Rupees 1,60,400 or £16,040 of the preceding year.

SECTION III.

Total Revenues.

Total Revenue increasing.

159. The following Abstract will shew the actual Imperial Revenue for 1862-63, as compared with those of 1861-62 :—

	1862-63.	1861-62.
Land Revenue	53,51,400	53,18,997
Abkaree	6,61,323	8,01,840
Salt and Customs	14,26,062	12,30,686
Stamps	3,59,709	2,62,469
Income Tax	4,00,055	4,31,257
Forest Revenue	60,843	64,302
Miscellaneous Sayer	2,26,483	1,60,400
Rupees ...	84,85,965	82,69,951
£ ...	848,596	826,995

It may be said that there is a general tendency to increase, and that the Revenues in these Provinces are flourishing.

CHAPTER V.—Education.

160. In my last Report, Chapter IV., I adverted, generally, to the condition of Education in these Provinces as it then was. It was shewn, in regard to the component parts of the Central Provinces, that in the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories there was a system of State Education imperfectly adopted after the model of the North-Western Provinces, and inferior to the system actually existing in the North-West; that in the Districts of the late Nagpore Province there had been no State Education at all; that in Sumbulpore and its Dependencies there existed only one School; that, in short, more than half of these Provinces were without education at all, and that the remainder possessed an incomplete system only. Since the submission of the last Report an Educational system has been organized and established, applicable uniformly to the whole country. I have now to shew how this system has been framed, and how far its results have been attained.

Educational machinery and system.

161. A Director of Public Instruction has been appointed to control the whole Department. He has his Head Quarters at Nagpore, and is in direct communication with the Chief Commissioner. The country has, for Educational purposes, been divided into three Circles—namely, the Northern, comprising the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts, with Head Quarters at Jubbulpore; the Southern, comprising the Districts of the Nagpore Province

Proper, with Head Quarters at Nagpore itself; the Eastern, comprising the Districts of Chutteesghur, Sumbulpore and Upper Godavery, with Head Quarters at Raepore. Over each Circle there is appointed an Inspector; of the three Inspectors two are European Officers and one a Native. Under the supervision of the Officers thus constituted, the direct administrative control of all Government Schools (with certain exceptions), and the inspection of all private and indigenous Schools, which may agree to be inspected by Government, are entrusted to the ordinary Civil Authorities,—that is, to the District Officers (or Deputy Commissioners as they are termed),—and under them, to the Officers in charge of Sub-divisions (termed Tehseeldars). The exceptions above mentioned are Colleges, Normal Schools, Schools of a superior class at Head Quarters of Divisions and Book Depôts. All these Institutions are under the direct administration of the Director and his Circle Inspectors. In order to assist the Civil Authorities in the performance of their Educational duties, there is appointed in each District an Educational Officer (Native) termed District Inspector, who is subordinate to the Civil Authority (Deputy Commissioner), and inspects all the Schools within that District.

Educational Institutions.

162. Of Educational Institutions there are the following kinds:—

Colleges.—One High School at Saugor, with a College Department.	Under the administration of the Director and the Circle Inspectors.
District or Zillah Schools,—at the Head Quarters of each District.	
Normal Schools,—for the training of School Masters at certain Central Stations.	
Book Depôts,—at the Head Quarters of each Circle of Inspection.	
Aided Schools,—that is Schools receiving aid under the Grant-in-aid Rules, existing in various places.	
Town Schools,—at all the Towns, great and small, in the interior of the country.	Under the administration or supervision of the Civil Authorities, subject to the general control of the Educational Department.
Village Schools,—at all the principal Villages in the interior.	
Indigenous and Private Schools, either now existing, or to be gradually founded, in Towns and Villages all over the country.	

Sources of Income.

163. For the support of the machinery thus sketched, the funds are derived from four sources—*first*, the Annual State grant; *second*, the cess levied at the rate of one per cent. on the Land Revenue; *third*, voluntary private subscriptions and contributions; *fourth*, fees levied from the parents of the children.

164. Previously to the year under report, 1862-63, the educational grant for the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts amounted annually to Rupees 48,000 or £4,800; and

the cost of the School in Sumbulpore amounted to about Rupees 2,000 or £200 per annum; so that the total State expenditure on education used to amount to Rupees 50,000 or £5,000 per annum. When the Nagpore Province was brought, for the first time, under State Education in 1862, the Government expenditure rose from Rupees 50,000 to Rupees 1,00,000 (one lakh) or £10,000; and this latter was the amount actually expended in that year. For the current year, 1863-64, the amount budgetted for amounts to Rupees 1,73,624 or £17,362.

165. The one per cent. cess, above-mentioned, is levied by agreements made with the landholders at the assessement of the Land Revenue, the percentage being taken upon the amount so assessed. The cess, therefore, rests on a firm basis, and is a certain source of income. Its amount, in these Provinces, stands at Rupees 51,004 or £5,100 per annum. It has been levied throughout the whole country, for the first time, during the year 1862-63. The third source, consisting of voluntary subscriptions and contributions, exists under a great variety of forms; the aggregate must be considerable, but it cannot be stated exactly, and indeed can never be estimated. Fees also are systematically realized in all Government Schools; their amount during the first year, 1862-63, has aggregated only Rupees 2,500 or £250, but it will increase yearly. The Book Depôts also form but a small ultimate charge to the State, inasmuch as the books are sold to Masters, scholars and others requiring them at a moderate discount.

166. Such being the Institutions to be supported, and such the means of support, I have to note that the cost of the High School, the District or Zillah Schools, of the Town Schools, of the Normal Schools, of the Book Depôts, of the grants-in-aid, and of the General Departmental Establishment, is defrayed from the State grant; whereas the cost of the Village Schools is defrayed from the one per cent. cess.

Actual Educational results.

167. It is now necessary to note what was actually effected, upon these principles, up to the 30th April 1863, as shewn by the Returns; premising, however, that that status has been rapidly changing for the better during every subsequent month, and will continue so changing. On the 30th April 1863, then, there were Schools and scholars as follows:—

Description of Schools.	Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda.)		Southern Circle, (Nagpore.)		Eastern Circle, (Chattisgarh.)		Total.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
Colleges, High School with College Department	1	272	0	0	0	0	1	272
Normal Schools	4	107	3	51	2	32	9	190
District or Zillah Schools	2	280	4	456	2	227	8	963
Aided Schools	3	156	4	607	0	0	7	1,063
Town Schools	25	1,681	37	1,511	9	368	71	3,560
Village Schools	303	6,816	22	411	7	237	338	7,464
Indigenous Schools under inspection	525	4,175	210	3,326	0	0	735	7,811
Total	863	13,087	280	6,362	20	864	1,169	21,353
Book Depôts	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0

This gives a total of 1,160 Schools and 21,353 Scholars actually existing on 30th April. What the increased numbers may be up to date cannot, of course, be stated. But of the above, it is to be observed that in the Northern Circle (Saugor and Nerbudda) the 309 Village Schools have, within the year, been entirely re-constituted, so as to be almost new Schools; while the indigenous Schools have been brought under inspection for the first time within the year. The entire return for the Southern and Eastern Circles (Nagpore and Chutteesghur) is almost entirely new. Then it is to be remembered that the new machinery could not be brought into play till the year was half expired; therefore this result, such as it may be, is the work of six months.

Proposed extension of Government Schools.

168. Since the 30th April, however, the date of these Returns, the system has been growing. Accordingly, the Schools which are being or immediately will be provided, may be as follows for the several Circles :—

Description of Schools.	Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda.)	Southern Circle, (Nagpore.)	Eastern Circle, (Chutteesghur.)	Total.
High School, with College Department ...	1	...	...	1
Normal Schools	4	3	2	9
District or Zillah Schools	2	4	2	8
Aided Schools	3	4	..	7
Town Schools	40	49	14	103
Village Schools	309	146	41	496
Total	359	206	59	624
Book Depôts	1	1	1	3

This will give a total of 627 Institutions connected with Government for the whole of these Provinces, of which 360 would belong to the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and 267 to the late Nagpore Districts with Sumbulpore. This may be termed (with the exception, perhaps, of the aided Schools) the regular Establishment of Government Schools for these Provinces.

Indigenous Schools.

169. There would remain the indigenous and private Schools under Government inspection. The number to which these Schools will amount cannot be accurately stated; it is to be hoped that they will increase indefinitely. But so far as can be known at present, the following numbers may be reckoned on approximately :—

Indigenous and Private Schools under Government inspection.

Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda) ...	612
Southern Circle, (Nagpore)	240
Eastern Circle, (Chutteesghur and Sirroncha) ...	32
Total ...	884

Total number of Schools.

170. The total number of Schools, either supported by Government or indigenous will stand as follows :—

Circles.	Government Schools.	Private and Indigenous.	Total.
Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda)	359	612	971
Southern Circle, (Nagpore)	206	210	416
Eastern Circle, (Chuttees ghur and) Sirouchu	59	32	91
Total	624	854	1,478

Some of these Schools are just commenced, or are about to be commenced shortly, or are in a state of development, that no accurate Estimate of the future number of pupils can be given. But if an average of 30 scholars be assumed, and this is but a fair average, then the number of scholars may reach to 44,100.

Proportion of Schools to population.

171. Now if the above result, which is all that can be hoped for at present from the combined efforts of the State and the people, be taken absolutely, it may appear considerable. But if it be compared with the actual requirements of the country, then the vastness of the need and the inadequacy of the means will be painfully manifest. There are 40 towns and 17,991 villages in these Provinces. With all our efforts we can only manage 1,478 Schools of all kinds, that is, one School to every 12 towns or villages. How very small a proportion does the number of Schools bear to the number of villages! Again, if the population be assumed at eight millions, and the number of scholars of every kind at 44,100, then how very small is the proportion of educated youth to the mass of the people. Then if it be remembered that even these Schools will, for some time, be very indifferent, and will shed but a feeble light, and that beyond their range all will continue to be darkness, the prospect is indeed chequered with light and shade.

Establishment of Normal Schools.

172. For the establishment of Schools, the first care has everywhere been to train Masters as professional persons. It may be difficult for any one who has not seen these Provinces to imagine the utter dearth there is of indigenous scholastic agency. There are really no School-masters, of even a humble kind, to be got anywhere. They must either be obtained from other Provinces, or else be trained on the spot. Before a School can be opened, the Master must be trained. And even when facilities for training and permanent prospects are offered, candidates are not so numerous as might be expected, for the profession of School-master is *not* highly esteemed. Indeed, there exists a sort of prejudice upon the subject, which it will take some time to remove entirely. The fundamental step, then, has been to establish Normal Schools, and thus to train Masters for the Town Schools and Village Schools. There now exist Normal Institutions at Saugor,

Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, Nagpore, Bhundara, Chanda, Raepore and Sumbulpore. From these, since their formation a few months ago, there have been already discharged about 84 men fairly trained and qualified for Masterships in Town and Village Schools; and they have been despatched to the interior to practice their calling there. There are now about 190 such students in all, and of these a certain number will be similarly despatched to the interior duly qualified, every six months, or even three months.

Erection of School-houses.

173. Another fundamental measure is the erection of School-buildings, which of course, are needed everywhere. School-houses are being built, or are built, at Seetabuldee (Nagpore), Saugor, Chanda, Bhundara, Seonee, Ramteak, Oomrair, Raepore, at the Cotton Marts of Hinguughat, Wurora, Deolee, Nuchengaon, Arvee, and many other minor places. Book Depôts are being built at Nagpore and Raepore. These buildings are defrayed partly from the Government grant, partly from the one per cent. cess fund, and partly from private subscriptions. In the interior, also, the landholders and other rural Chiefs are frequently induced to erect School-houses on their estates. Up to this time it is known that 20 Chiefs and landholders are building, or have undertaken to build, School-houses. In several instances individuals have contributed handsome subscriptions; and those who thus contribute receive honor from the Local Authorities.

Character of Indigenous Schools.

174. The Masters of the private and indigenous Schools are, of course, very inferior men. But indifferent as they are, they may, with care and patience, be better than nothing, and that is all. If cared for, they will give a few feeble rays of light in their neighbourhood, until the time shall have come when regular Village Schools can be established everywhere. It has been seen that our means will admit of our providing Schools for only a small proportion of villages; and even if we had the means of establishing more Schools, we could not find trained Masters for them. Thus all that can be done in many cases is to improve gradually the existing rude machinery. At present the indigenous Schools are operated upon in this wise:—They are visited by an Educational Inspector; if they agree to teach our books, and follow our system as nearly as they can, the Master receives a small retaining fee and a present of books; and the inspection visits are frequently and regularly made. A large number of the indigenous Schools do thus agree, and are indeed only too glad to come under inspection. Of course they will never become as good as our own Schools, but they will become improved.

Schools maintained by Native gentry.

175. Efforts have been made, with more or less of success, to induce the Chiefs and principal landholders to found and maintain Schools for their people, and before long every man of this class will, probably, be persuaded to join the cause. The large Zemindars on the Chutteesgluur Frontier are all preparing to establish Schools of their own. The most notable instances are, the Rajah of Deor (the representative of the Bhoosla), who is setting up a School in his own Palace in Nagpore, and has undertaken to maintain thirteen Schools on his estates in the neighbourhood; the Rajah of Bustar, who has set up a School at Jugdulpore, in the heart of his wild and remote territory; the Rajah of Sonepore, who

has an English and Ooriya School on the banks of the Mahanuddy; and the Zemindar of Ahiree, who has founded a School in the interior of the Godavery District.

Educational employés.

176. As there does not yet exist any class from which the superior employés of the Educational Department could be drawn, it is necessary to obtain men from neighbouring Provinces, where kindred languages are spoken. Thus for the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts, where the Hindee language is spoken, men are obtained from Hindoostan; for the Nagpore Districts, where Mahratta is spoken, men are obtained from Bombay; for Sumbulpore District, where Ooriya is spoken, men are obtained from Cuttack; for the Godavery District, where Teloogoo is spoken, men are obtained from the Eastern Coast. Of all the employés we have received, the Bombay men are, to my thinking, the best. Besides their own language, they know English well, and are imbued with those advanced and liberal ideas which flow from the study of European literature. Their presence will, assuredly, give a new impulse and a new life to the minds of the Natives of Nagpore.

Female Schools.

177. Of Female Schools there are as yet few; their number being only 5 with 133 scholars.

Languages taught in the Schools.

178. The languages taught in the Schools are, of course, diverse. In some few only, as yet, is English taught: such as the Saugor High School, where there are one experienced Head Master and two European Masters; the new Kamptee School, where an excellent European Master has been appointed; the Grant-in-aid Schools, the Sumbulpore School, and in the Seetabuldee School, which is entirely for European and Eurasian children. The aggregate number of English scholars amounts to 911. But the study of English is commencing in several of the Town Schools, of which the scholars are not entered in the above Return. For the Seetabuldee School the services of a Master trained as an Army Schoolmaster have been obtained, and another well educated Master is on his way from England.

The Bishop's School.

This School was inaugurated by the Bishop of Calcutta on the occasion of His Lordship's visit, and is named "The Bishop's School." There were on the 30th April 3,164 boys learning in the Oordoo language; 10,290 in Hindee; 1,952 in Mahratta; 79 in Ooriya; and 484 in Teloogoo. In the Nagpore Province about three-fourths of the boys were studying in Mahratta, and one-fourth in Oordoo.

Aided Schools.

179. Of the aided Schools the Church Mission at Jubbulpore under the Reverend Mr. Champion is flourishing; and the Scotch Free Church Mission School at Nagpore (under the Reverends S. Hislop and J. G. Cooper) continues to be a blessing to that city.

Mahratta language.

180. It is believed that the increased use of the Mahratta language in the Courts of Nagpore, and the increased employment of Mahratta Officials, will give some impulse to education. At present there is the greatest difficulty in finding young Natives at Nagpore fit for the higher kinds of employment; but the coming generation will produce youths qualified by education to compete for the patronage, which, though accruing in their own country has yet been heretofore unavoidably bestowed on foreigners. Throughout these Provinces

the lower grades in the Civil Departments have been unavoidably filled by men of deficient education. It has now been decided that no man shall be admitted even to the lowest grade in the Judicial and Fiscal Departments without passing a moderate educational test, both as to Literature and Arithmetic. It has been already seen that, in the Police Department, the Privates cannot be promoted without being able to read and write, and that in every District there are Schools established departmentally for the education of the sons of Policemen.

Educational tests for Government employés.

181. The Book Depôts in the Northern and Eastern Circles are supplied from Calcutta and Allahabad; the Depôt in Southern or Nagpore Division is supplied from Bombay. Some Globes, Maps, and Illustrations of Physical Science and Natural Philosophy have been already received; and a large supply of these things from Messrs. Keith, Johnstone and Company, Geographers at Edinburgh, is on its way. The sale of Books has been considerable, in all 13,600 have been sold during the last few months, of which 5,476 were sold in the Nagpore Division alone.

The Book Depôts.

182. In connection with the Educational Department, there has been formed a Central Museum at Nagpore. A suitable and handsome building is being erected for this purpose in the Station of Seetabuldee, and will soon be completed. Rupees 5,000 (£500) were contributed by the Government; the remainder of the cost will be defrayed from the Local Funds. The Office of Honorary Curator has been accepted by the Reverend S. Hislop, (Missionary of the Free Church of Scotland,) a gentleman of eminent acquirements. A committee of qualified gentlemen was appointed to consider the best mode of establishing a Museum and Public Library at Nagpore. It was decided that the Museum should be a repository for specimens of Nature and of Art. Under the head of Nature are to be classed specimens from the Animal, Vegetable and Mineral Kingdoms. Under the head of Art there are to be collected models of implements and Machinery; Manufactures; Sculpture; Wood-carving; Antiquities including Inscriptions, Reliefs, Statues, Coins; together with drawings and models of such specimens as cannot be actually procured. The Public Library is to be one of reference containing works of permanent interest connected with Education, Science and Art. A number of specimens under the headings above described have been already received from the various Districts.

Central Museum at Nagpore.

The Public Library at Nagpore.

183. Endeavour is being made to form an Antiquarian Society, which might have its habitation in the Museum Building. There is, indeed, peculiar scope for the labors of such a Society in these Provinces. In the introductory Chapter of my last Report, a sketch was given of the several historical periods and dynasties which have passed over this part of India. Of these earlier dynasties, perhaps even of these nations, there are no written records extant; the only means of tracing them are ruins and remains. But these materials of history, though often indistinct and difficult of interpretation, are numerous; and are scattered over almost all parts, even the wildest, of the country. There are Scythian

Necessity for Antiquarian research.

Scythian remains.

or Druidical remains consisting of Formuli Cromlechs and Kistvaens, and identical in style and character with the remains of ancient Britain. It seems certain that the same aboriginal people who, starting from Scythia, moved westwards to Scandinavia and Britain must also have penetrated southwards, even to this part of India. Their vestiges are discernible all round Nagpore, and even down to the banks of the Godavery below Sironcha. There are rock excavations believed to be Buddhist on the Puchmarree Hills, and Buddhist remains are found in various other places. The earliest Hindoo remains are monolith pillars, apparently marking the stages over long distances of pilgrims in the early ages marching to and from the sacred Mahadeo Cave near Puchmarree. There are stone carvings to be found throughout the Central Provinces, attesting the existence of several Hindoo dynasties of much higher oriental civilization than any thing that has since been seen, and apparently indicating a greater degree of wealth and prosperity than has been known in these latter generations. It is certain that many of the jungles of the present day in these Provinces, now infested by wild beasts, were once the scenes of architectural labor and centres of human activity. Succeeding these dynasties there were the Gond Kingdoms of inferior civilization, but still of considerable power. They also covered the mountain tops and interspersed the broad plains with forts, temples and palaces, the broken remnants of which now serve as the sole monuments of their greatness. The Mahratta period which supervened has fallen within the scope of written history. But all the other periods can only be known by remains and ruins, which, saved as it were from the wreck of ages, have been left, under Providence, for our instruction, if we will but learn to read them. If, therefore, this unwritten history is ever to be known and collated, something like a system of antiquarian research must be established; and thus an Antiquarian Society, if well sustained, might succeed in concentrating the scattered rays of light into a focus, and thus disclose the annals of preceding systems both of Government and Society.

Early Hindoo remains.

Remains of buildings under Gond Dynasties.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

184. This Chapter will treat of the various classes of Public Works in the following order :—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Roads, Communication, and Bridges.
IV.—Canals and Irrigation.
V.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

185. The greater portion of the works are executed by the Public Works Department, but that portion of the works which are executed by the Local Committees are also under the ultimate supervision and control of the same Department.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

186. In my last Report, paragraph 263, it was stated that the Military Buildings were nowhere good, generally defective, just barely sufficient to carry on the service from year to year, and

Military Buildings.

Scythian remains.

or Druidical remains consisting of Formuli Cromlechs and Kistvaens, and identical in style and character with the remains of ancient Britain. It seems certain that the same aboriginal people who, starting from Scythia, moved westwards to Scandinavia and Britain must also have penetrated southwards, even to this part of India. Their vestiges are discernible all round Nagpore, and even down to the banks of the Godavery below Sironcha. There are rock excavations believed to be Buddhist on the Puchmarree Hills, and Buddhist remains are found in various other places. The earliest Hindoo remains are monolith pillars, apparently marking the stages over long distances of pilgrims in the early ages marching to and from the sacred Mahadeo Cave near Puchmarree. There are stone carvings to be found throughout the Central Provinces, attesting the existence of several Hindoo dynasties of much higher oriental civilization than any thing that has since been seen, and apparently indicating a greater degree of wealth and prosperity than has been known in these latter generations. It is certain that many of the jungles of the present day in these Provinces, now infested by wild beasts, were once the scenes of architectural labor and centres of human activity. Succeeding these dynasties there were the Gond Kingdoms of inferior civilization, but still of considerable power. They also covered the mountain tops and interspersed the broad plains with forts, temples and palaces, the broken remnants of which now serve as the sole monuments of their greatness. The Mahratta period which supervened has fallen within the scope of written history. But all the other periods can only be known by remains and ruins, which, saved as it were from the wreck of ages, have been left, under Providence, for our instruction, if we will but learn to read them. If, therefore, this unwritten history is ever to be known and collated, something like a system of antiquarian research must be established; and thus an Antiquarian Society, if well sustained, might succeed in concentrating the scattered rays of light into a focus, and thus disclose the annals of preceding systems both of Government and Society.

Early Hindoo remains.

Remains of buildings under Gond Dynasties.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

184. This Chapter will treat of the various classes of Public Works in the following order :—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Roads, Communication, and Bridges.
IV.—Canals and Irrigation.
V.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

185. The greater portion of the works are executed by the Public Works Department, but that portion of the works which are executed by the Local Committees are also under the ultimate supervision and control of the same Department.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

186. In my last Report, paragraph 263, it was stated that the Military Buildings were nowhere good, generally defective, just barely sufficient to carry on the service from year to year, and

Military Buildings.

that the expenditure on these works had been, and continued to be, small. The expenditure for the year under review has amounted to Rupees 1,98,029 or £19,802. A large portion of this has been spent on repairs and petty works. The only works of importance have been the erection of some family quarters, an Artillery School-house and Plunge Bath at Kamptee; the drainage of swamps near the Barracks at Jubbulpore; and the commencement of Barracks at the Mohtoor Sanatarium.

Permanent Barracks.

187. Sanction of Supreme Government has been obtained to the erection of family quarters, which are urgently needed at Saugor and at Kamptee, at an aggregate expenditure of Rupees 2,50,000 or £25,000, at the two Stations within the current year. An additional lakh of Rupees or £10,000 has been sanctioned from Imperial Funds for the construction of permanent Barracks. Saugor will probably be the Station selected for the erection of these Buildings.

The Mohtoor Sanatarium.

188. The Mohtoor Sanatarium was described in paragraphs 258 to 262 of my last Report. It was then stated that the construction of a Barrack to accommodate 25 or 30 European Soldiers was recommended. That recommendation has since been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, and some progress has been made with the actual work. It is hoped that the buildings will be ready for Troops by the next hot season. At present the Station has an Executive Engineer and two European Overseers, a Medical Officer, a Company of Sappers and Miners, with one European Officer, and a large gang of prisoners to supply the labor for local works. A site has been very carefully selected on a portion of the plateau, free from jungle, and by all appearances likely to continue salubrious at all seasons. The spot was visited in January last by the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, Sir Hope Grant.

The Puchmurree Hills.

189. I have, during this last season, examined the Puchmurree Hills, which are opposite the Mohtoor Range, in company with various gentlemen of professional knowledge and local experience. We were much impressed with the excellence of the place as a site for a Sanatarium. At the end of May, in an open Bungalow, the temperature ranged from 76° to 86° Farenheit. The plateau, at an elevation of 3,500 feet above the Sea, is about six miles long and one mile broad. It reposes on a mass of magnificent sandstone formation, presenting bold and beautiful scenery. It is finely wooded. During the hot weather and winter it is fully equal to Mohtoor, and superior to it in beauty and interest. But Mohtoor will probably prove the more salubrious in the rainy season and the autumn, and that is a great advantage. Again, Mohtoor is easily accessible from Nagpore, whereas Puchmurree is not so, and indeed could only be approached by a long detour. On the other hand, Puchmurree is much more conveniently situated in respect to Jubbulpore, and all the Nerbudda Stations. On the whole, I am prepared to recommend that a small Barrack be constructed experimentally at Puchmurree as well as at Mohtoor. It seems sufficiently certain that, whatever the climate of Puchmurree might be in the autumn, it would be excellent in the winter, spring and summer. By roads which could be rendered passable without any great expense, Puchmurree would be 130 miles distant from Jubbulpore, 167 from Dumoh, 110 from Saugor, 77 from Nursingpore, and 53 from Hoshungabad. The nearest Station on the Railway between Nursingpore and Hoshungabad would be distant about 25 miles from the Hill.

Section II.—Civil Buildings.

Deficiency of Civil Buildings.

190. In my last Report, paragraphs 264 to 272, the then condition of Civil buildings in these Provinces was described. It was shewn that Court Houses had been generally constructed or were under construction. But other kinds of buildings were deficient or entirely wanting. Since then some progress has been made; but when so many other needs in respect to material improvements are pressing, it is not possible to devote more than a portion of our resources to Civil buildings.

Court Houses.

191. Within the year under review, 1862-63 the following buildings have been or are being constructed:—

A Court House is being built for the Commissioner at Saugor; the Court Houses for the Deputy Commissioners at Bhundarah, Belaspore and Chanda have been completed, and a Court House at Dumoh has been ordered to be commenced.

The Tehseelees or Court Houses for the Sub-Divisions, into which each District is divided, are of some importance, as much of the Civil business in the interior of the country is transacted in them. These Offices have generally been accommodated in Native buildings, which are found by experience to be wretched, and often little better than sheds. Some effort has been made of late to erect suitable buildings. In the Chutteesghur Division and Nagpore, where the want was most felt, eight of these Court Houses have been commenced on a standard plan; one has been commenced at Hurda near Hoshungabad, and one has been ordered in the Saugor District, and one (temporary) has been erected in the Sumbulpore District. Thus ten Court Houses, and all of this class, have been undertaken within the year. There remain 20 more to be undertaken before the complement of these buildings for all these Provinces will be complete.

Police Buildings.

192. It may be said that, except in a few places, the Police in these Provinces are without any building accommodation. A set of standard Plans and Estimates have been prepared for the accommodation of the entire Police Force, which will ultimately, when complete, involve an expenditure of 4 lakhs of Rupees or £40,000. In the mean time buildings for the Police are being constructed at the Stations of Jubbulpore and Raepore, at a cost of Rupees 20,000 or £2,000.

Caravanserais.

193. In paragraph 269 of my last Report it was stated that Caravanserais for the accommodation of travellers were in most places wanting; some effort has been made to supply these where they were most needed. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Divisions thirteen of these buildings have been commenced during the year under review on a standard plan at the most frequented stages on the main roads. They will cost Rupees 9,000 or £900 each.

194. The various educational buildings undertaken within the year have been mentioned in the Chapter on Education.

195. The Jail buildings have been similarly mentioned in the Chapter on Jails.

196. The sums expended in 1862-63 on Civil buildings, inclusive of Jails, but exclusive of educational buildings, has amounted to Rupees 1,21,440 or £12,144.

SECTION III.—Communications.

Roads and Bridges.

197. In my last Report I explained the character and objects of the various roads in the Central Provinces. I have now to shew what has been, and is being, done on each line. It is to be borne in mind that, firstly, main lines are under the Department of Public Works; and, secondly, that the branch roads and lines are under the different Local Committees.

Lines of Trunk Road.

198. There are now four main or trunk roads under the Department of Public Works, namely, the Great Northern Road, the Southern Road, the Great Eastern Line, the North West Road.

199. The Great Northern Road may be regarded as being in two main sections: that between Jubbulpore and the Khuttra Pass, near Mirzapore; and that between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, to each of which separate allusion will be made.

Road from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore.

200. From Jubbulpore to the Khuttra Pass the road was made and metalled some time ago. The bridges are now under construction, and attention is devoted to them alone. During the past year, 1862-63, four large bridges were constructed or commenced at a cost during the year of Rupees 23,984 (£2,398). One of those commenced was the bridge over the Tonse River, having five arches of 50 feet span. The sum set down in the Budget for the prosecution of these bridges during the year 1863-64 is one lakh of Rupees or £10,000; and this, with our present resources, is all that can be allowed. But it is noteworthy that no less than 146 bridges of various sizes, and some of them of first class, remain to be constructed at a cost of about six lakhs of Rupees or £60,000. Thus, at the present rate of expenditure and progress, some six years would elapse before this great road could be really completed, and really open for traffic in the rains. The Railway, to which this road is to be an important feeder, may, perhaps, be opened within that period. The Estimates for the unfinished portion of bridges under construction amount to Rupees 66,000 or £6,600. Designs and Estimates for new bridges to the amount of Rupees 61,000 or £6,100 are ready, or nearly ready. These two sums together make Rupees 1,66,000 or £16,600. If, therefore, financial means should permit, a far greater sum than that now set down in the Budget could be beneficially expended on the progress of this great Line.

Road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

201. From Jubbulpore to Nagpore, or rather to Kamptee, on the Kanhan River, the road is now considerably advanced. Of the total distance, 62 miles are complete in all respects; 31, though not complete, are so far advanced as to be open for traffic; 40 miles are under construction, and the remaining 18 miles have been surveyed, planned and estimated for, and may be commenced as soon as means may permit. During the past year, 1862-63, Rupees 4,39,719 or £43,971 have been expended on this section; there remain about 7 lakhs of Rupees or £70,000 required to complete it, of which 4½ lakhs of Rupees or £45,000 are set down to be expended during the current year 1863-64. Among the works, the most remarkable are the bridges over the Wyn Gunga, having 12 arches of

50 feet span, and over the Kanhan, having 12 arches of 50 feet span. Of the Wyn Gunga Bridge eight arches are already turned; this work has chiefly been done during the past working season. Of the Kanhan Bridge the foundations are partly laid, and four piers are erected. At the Silba Pass near Jubbulpore, the road has been successfully carried up the side of Hills 264 feet high from the base. At Koraee, south of Seonee, the road will have to surmount the southern face of the Range, and for this Pass Designs and Estimates have been framed.

The Southern Road.

202. The Southern Road runs from Nagpore down the Valley of the Wurda and through the Cotton Country, having branches to Hingun Ghat, Deolee and Arvee, all great Cotton Marts, and destined to connect all these rich Districts with the Railway. This road also has been advanced considerably during the year under review, 1862-63. Of the total distance 163¾ miles (branches include!) 25 are completed in all respects; 68 miles, though not completed, are so advanced as to be open for traffic, 47¾ miles are under construction, 17 miles, though not commenced, are surveyed and estimated for, and the remaining 6 miles have yet to be surveyed, as also three branches to join the different Railway Stations, the total length of which will be about 50 miles. The expenditure during 1862-63 on this road has amounted to Rupees 2,12,045 or £21,204. That set down for 1863-64 amounts to one lakh of Rupees or £10,000. The amount required for completion, however, is 4 lakhs of Rupees or £40,000. If means should be available, a fair proportion of this might be beneficially expended during the next season.

The Great Eastern Road.

203. The Great Eastern Road from Nagpore to Chutteesghur (of vast importance to trade) has been proceeded with; but owing to the mismanagement of the Executive Officers in charge, the progress made has disappointed our expectations. Out of a total distance of 230 miles, 5 have been completed; 17 miles, though not completed, have been so far advanced as to be opened for traffic; 56 miles are under construction; 52 miles, though not commenced, have been surveyed and estimated for; and 100 miles have yet to be surveyed. On this line most of the larger bridges were well constructed many years ago by the Mahratta Government. The expenditure in 1862-63 has amounted to Rupees 65,162 or £6,516, and that set down for 1863-64 amounts to one lakh of Rupees or £10,000.

Road to Sumbulpore and the Mahanuddy.

204. A continuation of the Great Eastern Road is the line which runs from Chutteesghur to Sumbulpore, with a branch to the Mahanuddy at Binka, which is considered the navigable head of that river. Owing partly to want of means, and partly to the sickness of the Executive Officer, from malaria contracted in that jungly District, it has not been possible during the last season to make any appreciable progress on this line. Some 48 miles have, however, been surveyed and estimated for at a cost of nearly 2 lakhs of Rupees or £20,000. Should these Estimates be approved by the Supreme Government, and should financial means be available, it would be possible to make a vigorous commencement during 1863-64.

The North West Road.

205. The North-West Line runs from Nagpore towards Baitool and Hoshungabad, with a branch to Chindwarra. On this line 20 miles have been completed; 10 miles, though not completed,

are still so advanced as to be open for traffic; 25 miles are under construction, and 27 miles, though not commenced, have been surveyed and estimated for; during the year under review Rupees 20,000 or £2,000 have been spent on this road; no large bridges have been constructed. The most interesting work on this line is the Silwanee Pass, where the road has been carried with great engineering skill up the side of the Hill Range to a height of 572 feet.

Present state of the Main Roads.

206. Exclusive of the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore Section, the state of which is exceptional, as already explained, the present condition of the four great lines under the Department of Public Works is as follows:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	112
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed ...	126
Under construction	168¾
Surveyed and estimated for, though not commenced ...	162
Not yet surveyed	166
Total ...	734¾

Results of last season's operations.

207. The above represents the result of the operations of former years and the year under review taken together. The result for the year under review, 1862-63, if taken separately, will appear as follows:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	75
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	104
Under construction	168¾
Surveyed and estimated for, though not commenced ...	162
Not yet surveyed	166
Total ...	675¾

208. The total length of road, belonging to the Department of Public Works, under operation within the working season of 1862-63, (including miles completed or opened for traffic, or under construction, or surveyed) amounts to 568¾ miles. Over this length of mileage the number of large bridges of more than 100 running feet water-way, either constructed or under construction within the year, amounts to 18, and of lesser bridges (exclusive of culverts) to 119.

Preparation of Designs and Estimates.

209. Within the same period also special efforts have been made to ensure such progress with the Surveys and Estimates, that these preliminary operations might be one twelvemonth in advance of the actual commencement of work. During the year 274¾ miles of road have been surveyed and estimated for; of these many have within the same season been brought under construction. But it will have been seen, from the above Statement, that there are 162 miles surveyed but not commenced, and this quantity represents more than a

twelve-month's work. Thus nearly all the works to be proceeded with during the coming season, 1863-64, has been already surveyed and estimated for. Experience shows that these essential preliminaries ought to be arranged at least some little time beforehand. If the Executive Engineers are busied with actual construction, they cannot give that time and thought which are necessary to the preparation of good Estimates. The best routine seems to be that Plans and Estimates should be made during one season, and the work executed during the next season. This principle has been followed during the past season for the main roads in these Provinces.

Road operations under Local Committees.

210. Besides the regular Department of Public Works, the Local Committees in the various Districts have operated upon a great number of Branch Roads, constructing some, improving others, and executing surface repairs in others. It is not necessary to show the number of miles repaired, which must be very considerable, but in other more important branches of the work the aggregate result of the operations of the various Committees during the year 1862-63 may be thus shewn approximately :—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	49
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	15
Under construction	144
Improved and marked off	400
Total ...	608

The above Statement refers to roads in the interior of the country, and is exclusive of mere Station Roads and Streets in Cities, which latter will be adverted to separately.

211. The principal roads on which the Local Committees have been operating upon are as follows :—

The road from Jubbulpore to Raepore (the importance of which was explained in paragraph 285 of my last Report); the road down the Valley of the Godavery from Sironcha; the roads in the Valley of the Mahanuddy; the road from the Kuttungee, Valley to Seonee on the Trunk Road; the roads in the interior of the Nagpore, Bhundara and Jubbulpore Districts; and the direct road from Nagpore to Oomrawuttee, which will be of great consequence when the Railways shall be opened into the interior of Berar.

Aggregate length of roads under operation during the last season.

212. The combined result of the road operations by the Department of Public Works, and by the Local Committee during the season of 1862-63, may be thus exhibited :—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	117
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	119
Under construction	371½
Surveyed but not commenced	162
Improved and marked off	400
Total ...	1,169½

Thus it will be seen that, at one stage or other, no less than 1,109½ miles of road have been under operations during the year 1862-63.

213. In the Statement appended to paragraph 291 of my last Report it was shewn that the total expenditure by the Department of Public Works on roads in these Provinces during previous years up to May 1862 amounted to Rupees 12,84,175 or £128,417. The expenditure during 1862-63 has amounted to Rupees 7,60,910 or £76,091, and that allowed by Supreme Government for the expenditure of 1863-64 amounts to Rupees 9,31,044 or £93,104.

Additional roads required.

214. In addition to the roads already mentioned, there is the line from Jubbulpore *vid* Dumoh to Saugor and thence to the Matthone Pass. This road is urgently needed to connect Saugor, our principal Military Station, with the Railway Terminus at Jubbulpore, and also for the increasing traffic which flows from the North-West to Jubbulpore. This should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works as soon as possible. In a Military and Political point of view, it is also very desirable to improve the road from Saugor to Nowgong in Bundlecund.

Paramount importance of road-making in the Central Provinces.

215. In my last Report it was shewn how road-making is among the most pressing needs of these Provinces, and yet, perhaps, of all matters under the cognizance of this Administration the most backward. The present Report will shew how, despite all the efforts that can be made, the distances to be operated on are really immense. Indeed, many hundreds of miles of road have yet to be made before these Provinces can rise to any thing approaching a par with the more advanced parts of India. It is, of course, difficult to find the financial means for prosecuting so many projects; but owing to the liberality of the Supreme Government, this difficulty has not been much felt. Again there is a scarcity of labor every where, and a still greater dearth of skilled Artisans. On the main line, however, these needs are ultimately supplied, more or less. But the difficulty, which of all others I find it hardest to overcome, is that of finding a sufficient number of able Executive Officers, and of well trained and well conducted subordinate officials.

SECTION IV.

Railways and Tramways.

216. The three Lines of Railway in progress within these Provinces were described in paragraphs 292 to 296 of my last Report. They are, *first*, the Bombay and Jubbulpore Line, *second* the branch to Nagpore, *third* the Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line.

Progress of the Railway in the Nerbudda Valley.

217. That portion of the Bombay and Jubbulpore Line which lies within the Nerbudda Valley has been advanced during the last working season, though towards the Hoshungabad extremity of the Valley, there was a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of laborers. The earth-work has been nearly completed, and the masonry works are in

progress. The two greatest works are the bridges over the Nerbudda near Jubbulpore, and over the Towa River near Hoshungabad; both of these have been commenced. There remain, however, many bridges of various sizes to be constructed. The Contractors have been fortunate in exhuming at various places large quantities of excellent building stone, from the remains of temples, edifices and cities of ancient Hindoo Dynasties. These remains were generally found in shapeless masses, covered over with the earth which had accumulated through centuries. There has been considerable difficulty in selecting the site for the Terminus at Jubbulpore, and the matter is not yet settled. The sites for all the other stations have been duly selected. During the past year some 160,000 sleepers have been supplied to this Railway from the Forests of Bijeeragoghur near Rewa, of the Mundla Hills, and of the Baitool District. These are of saj and teak wood. The Line will, probably, not be opened to Jubbulpore until four years hence. At present Bhosawal, 330 miles distant from Jubbulpore, is the nearest point to which the Railway is open.

Progress of the Railway to Nagpore.

218. The branch Railway through Berar to Nagpore is advancing fast, the earthwork is nearly completed to Nagpore, and progress has been made with the masonry works. Excepting the bridge over the Wurda, there is no work of magnitude on this Line within the Nagpore Province, and that is half finished. The sites for the Terminus at Nagpore, and of the other stations along the line, have been selected. Some 58,000 sleepers have been supplied for the Line from the Forests of saj trees, which extend from the banks of the Pench River eastwards along the southern base of the Seonee Hills.

Traffic from Nagpore to Railway in Berar.

219. At present the nearest point from Nagpore up to which the Railway is open is Mulkapore, 228 miles distant. The Railway already attracts the Passenger traffic from Nagpore to Bombay, and even the Goods traffic from the Nagpore and Nerbudda country. Although the extremity of the completed Line is so far distant from Nagpore, yet the tide of exportation is steadily setting in towards that point. Already the trains to Bombay are over-freighted with the cotton of the Wurda and Nerbudda Districts and the oilseeds of Chutteesghur. Even now the Rail can hardly carry the vast traffic which is seeking for means of export. It is hoped that within a twelvemonth the Line will be open to a point near Oomraotee, within 150 miles of Nagpore, and in two years to Nagpore itself.

The Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line.

220. The Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line, having been surveyed, was commenced during this last season. Its sleepers will be supplied from the Saul Forests of Bijeeragoghur.

221. It is difficult to over-estimate the advantages which are expected to result to these Provinces from the construction of Railways, or to describe the keen interest with which the opening of the Line from Bombay to Nagpore, and to Jubbulpore, is awaited by all classes of the community, both European and Native.

Prospects of future supply of Wooden Sleepers to the Railways.

222. I may mention in this place that future difficulty is apprehended respecting the adequate supply of wooden sleepers and even of wooden fence posts for the several Railways. I

understand that the Nagpore and Jubbulpore Railways will take upwards of 400,000 sleepers and 300,000 fence posts at the first construction, and thereafter this vast quantity will require renewal every five years. Quantities in similar proportions will be required for the Jubbulpore and Allahabad Lines. The following passages may be appropriately extracted from a recent Report by the Conservator of Forests, Captain Pearson. That Officer writes :—

"I cannot, however, help expressing the great anxiety I feel as to the future supply "of timber, and sleepers especially, to the Railway. By the time even single Lines are "laid to Nagpore and Jubbulpore, the Forests near the Railway will be so stripped that, "except at the cost of absolute ruin, it will be impossible to cut any sleepers in them "for fifteen or twenty years to come, and even from more distant sources the expense of "supplying another complete set of sleepers for the Railway would be enormous.

"It would cost about Rupees 5 (ten shillings) per sleeper to deliver saul wood "sleepers from the Mundla Forests at Jubbulpore, if they had to be carted all the way; "and these Forests are by no means inexhaustible. I really cannot tell where the "sleepers would come from if a double line of Rails were ordered to be laid down.

"I have no hesitation in saying that to renew the Central India Lines, or lay a "double line of Rails would be an operation involving far greater difficulties and cost "than most people have any idea of. The timber would come from a great distance, "indeed I do not know any resources except the distant Saul Forests of Mundla and "Rewa, which would stand the drain. There is a good deal of Kowah (Terminalia "Arjuna) along the River bank. This has not yet been much tried for sleepers, but it "possibly may serve the purpose * * *; still all this will never suffice to meet the perma-"nent demand * * *. It is important to turn attention to the possibility of obtaining a "good scheme for an *Iron* permanent way * * *; either Iron sleepers, or sleepers from "Norway or Australia, must be employed."

223. In my last Report, paragraphs 297 to 304, a brief sketch was given of possible Tramways in these Provinces. Since then the question has not advanced to any practical stage. It is now thought that the most promising Line would be that from Chutteesghur to Nagpore. The enormous productive powers of Chutteesghur, and the quantity of surplus produce, as evidenced by the extreme cheapness of grain, have been frequently mentioned in my last Report. The increase of the area sown with cotton in the Wurda Valley and in Berar, which increase displaces a corresponding quantity of grain, will, doubtless, cause an enhanced demand on the granaries of Chutteesghur, and consequent exportation of grain from that District towards Nagpore. If, then, Chutteesghur were to become one of the indispensable sources of the supply of food to the population of the Cotton-growing Districts, the construction of a Tramway from thence to Nagpore might merit consideration. The trade between Chutteesghur and Nagpore is carried partly by country carts, and partly by pack bullocks, by three roads running parallel to each other. It has been ascertained by an Establishment posted at selected points to note the traffic as it passed. These accounts, too, have been compared

with Estimates made by the principal Native Traders. The result may be stated as follows:—

Articles.	Export.			Import.		
	Bulk.	Value.		Bulk.	Value.	
	Maunds of 82 lbs. each.	Rupees.	£	Maunds of 82 lbs. each.	Rupees.	£
Grain ...	650,000	500,000	50,000			
Cotton ...	20,000	390,000	39,000			
Brass Vessels ...	...	...	...	11,300	6,000	600
Sugar ...	...	...	...	990	13,000	1,300
Cocoanuts ...	40,000	100,000	10,000			
Bullion ...	...	...	...	...	500,000	50,000
Miscellaneous ...	85,000	30,000	3,000	2,710	1,000	100
Total ...	795,000	1,020,000	102,000	15,000	520,000	52,000

The value of grain and cotton has been assumed at the prices current in Chutteesghur, which are very low. The amount of bullion imported has been obtained, not from the Trade Returns, but from wealthy traders engaged in the traffic between Chutteesghur and Nagpore.

SECTION V

Canals and Irrigation.

Special enquiries regarding Canals and Reservoirs.

224. In my last Report, paragraph 305, it was stated that Canals do not exist in these Provinces, and that it was not then known whether any could be advantageously constructed. During the year under review, 1862-63, on the appointment of a special Officer as Superintendent of Irrigation, particular enquiries have been made on this important subject. The Officer is Mr. S. Hanna, Civil Engineer, a gentleman who gained valuable experience in the Canal Department of the Punjab.

225. These enquiries shew that Reservoirs can be formed at the point where the Kunhan River and its affluent the Pench debouch from the Sautpoora Hills, north of Nagpore, and that thence Canals could be conducted down the Cotton Districts in the Valley of the Wurda, and down the plain of Nagpore to the Wyn Gunga, these two tracts being the very richest parts of the Nagpore Province. A Sketch Map of these possible projects is annexed.

The Kunhan and the Pench Rivers.

226. It will be seen that both the Kunhan and the Pench rise in the heart of the Sautpoora Range near the cluster of Hills, now so well known by the names of Puchmuree and Mohtoor.

Then turning south-eastwards, through the upland undulating plains of the Chindwarra District, they ultimately find passages through the Valleys which intersect the southern face of the Range. The Kunhan debouches finally from the Hills near Khelode, and the Pench near Doongurthal. They then unite their streams at a point a little above the Station of Kamptee. Then flowing south-eastwards, the united stream joins the Wyn Gunga near Bhundara. It has been ascertained with certainty that large reservoirs, containing vast quantities of water, can be formed without any extraordinary difficulty, and without any excessive cost, in the Valleys near Khelode and Doongurthal, by damming up the Kunhan and Pench respectively.

Storage of the waters of the Kunhan and of the Pench.

227. From a reservoir near Khelode, it would be practicable to conduct a Canal past Nagpore into the Valley of the Wunna Stream, which is an affluent of the Wurda, and passes by Hingun Ghaut, and thence down the Valley of the Wurda to Chanda. The total length of such a Canal would be about 130 miles, and about 150 square miles of highly culturable country might be irrigated from it. It would not be possible to carry a Canal from the Pench Valley across the country on the left bank of the Wurda, because the Pench Valley is at a much lower level. But a Canal from the Pench could be conducted eastward with every facility down the Valley of the Wyn Gunga. The length of such a Canal would be about 35 miles, and about 80 square miles of highly cultivated country might be irrigated from it.

The Reservoir proposed near Khelode on the Kunhan.

228. Regarding a possible reservoir near Khelode for the storage of the waters of the Kunhan, Mr. Hanna thus writes:—

"The very place in the Valley to which, on account of the level of the ground, it is "necessary to look to for the head of a Canal is wonderfully favored as a site for the "formation of a great artificial Lake. Some 15 or 20 miles higher up the course of the "river the Hills on each side hang close to its banks and narrow the limits of the Valley; "but from this point their distance increases, the main range running to the east, while "the opposite Hills extend themselves to the south, leaving the river to ramble in the "centre of the plain. Lower down the spreading plain is twice remarkably intersected "by protruding spurs as almost to thwart the Valley * * * *; a heading up of 60 "feet high would probably throw the water over fifty-four square miles, and a "heading up 110 feet high would produce the same effect for 91 square miles. "* * * The capacity of the reservoir formed by a dam 110 feet high would "give an useful storage space of 72 billions of cubic feet. The loss by evaporation, "calculated at 8 feet per season over the mean surface, would amount to about 12 "billions of cubic feet, leaving 60 billions of cubic feet as the quantity available "to be dealt out to the Wurda over a period of 300 days. This last quantity is less by "40 billions of cubic feet than the computed smallest available rain-fall."

229. The catchment basin of the reservoir is ascertained to extend over 1,800 square miles, which represents a vast surface of drainage; and the above calculations are made on an estimated average rain-fall of 30 inches per annum. The length of the dam would be 2,000 yards or 1¼ mile. After being conducted from the reservoir by

means of an artificial outlet channel in a direction nearly due south, would, for the first 20 miles of its course, cross the valley or basin of the Kunhan. Then it would enter a trap-rock ridge near Nagpore, the summit of which would be a hundred feet above the bed of the channel, and would be carried through this ridge for a distance of 7 or 8 miles, partly by an open cutting and partly by a Tunnel. Emerging from this, it would join the Valley of the Wurda at about the 25th mile of its course. Then it would flow for some miles in the natural channel of the Wunna, one of the affluents of the Wurda. After that an irrigation canal head might be formed at a point near Bhoree, which might thence be carried right down the Valley to Chanda. Excepting the interval of the trap-rock ridge, it would pass through and irrigate a fertile and well inhabited country throughout its whole course from the reservoir, till it joined the Wurda. That portion of the water which might be required for the supply of the Wurda might pass down the Wunna, and enter the Wurda near Hingun Ghaut.

Probable effect of the Khelode Lake on the navigation of the Wurda.

230. It appears certain that the Khelode Lake thus described would suffice both to irrigate the fertile Valley of the Wurda, and also to flush that river, so as to render it perfectly navigable above the third Barrier. But it is to be remembered that the formation of the reservoir alone would not subserve the purposes of the Wurda navigation, as there is no natural channel from Khelode to the Wurda Valley. Thus the water must be carried by the confined channel and Tunnel through the ridge before it can reach the water shed of the Wurda. In this point of view, a reservoir *and* a canal *must* be made together. The expense of the two works would, of course, be very considerable, but the double advantage both of navigation and irrigation would be vast.

And of the Godavery.

231. But the Khelode Reservoir might be made to supply the Godavery *below the junction of the Wyn Gunga*, and this without any canal, as the water would pass into the Kunhan, and thence into the Wyn Gunga. Whether, however, its storage would suffice to supply the Godavery during the *whole* of the dry season is doubtful. But, at least, the supply would be of considerable assistance.

Reservoirs for storing the Pench waters near Doongurthal.

232. The water from the Pench Reservoir near Doongurthal could not, by reason of the relative levels, be conducted into the Valley of the Wurda. But it could supply the Godavery, being conducted down the natural channel of the Pench, Kunhan and Wyn Gunga. Here again, however, it is as yet doubtful whether the storage would suffice to supply the Godavery during the whole of the dry season, though it would certainly be ample for a canal, as already described.

233. It is hoped that both the Pench and Kunhan projects may be matured during the next working season, so that reliable Estimates of cost may be obtained.

Possible Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy.

234. In the Chapter on Navigation I shall have occasion to mention the projected Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy, which will be as useful for irrigation as for navigation. It is sufficient here to state that there is a project for such a Canal 150 miles long, which will irrigate the best tracts in the Sumbulpore District and its Dependencies.

235. There is also a project formed by Captain Haig, the Superintending Engineer of the Godavery Works, for an Irrigation Canal from Bhudrachellum to the Sibree junction, a distance of forty miles. The valley at that point is rich and well adapted for profitable irrigation. The project is a promising one, the levels are suitable, and the ground highly favorable.

Proposed Irrigation Canal near Bhudrachellum.

236. In respect to other works of irrigation, much general enquiry has been made during the year. The most promising projects of this nature are those which relate to the Kuttungee Valley. This valley is a remarkable tract lying along the southern base of the Sautpoora Range, North of Nagpore. It will have been seen that the Pench forces its way almost at a right angle through the southern face of the Range. From that point eastward the base of the Hills is fringed by dense forests and jungles, and the land is generally unculturable. But after some distance this great belt of Forest terminates in a ridge, and is succeeded by rich lowlands which stretch along the foot of the Hills, receiving their drainage; and which extend eastward, till they join the Valley of the Wyn Gunga, shortly after the debouchure of that river from the same Hills. This submontane tract is called the Kuttungee Valley. It has been chiefly reclaimed within the last thirty years, is fast increasing in cultivation and population, sending its surplus strength of men to labor in the public works; and with good management it may become one of the gardens of the Central Provinces. Its products are chiefly grain and sugar-cane. It has many small tanks, but these do not suffice to provide the permanent irrigation which is required. Now two valleys have been found traversed by streams running down from the Hills, and capable of being dammed up and formed into large reservoirs, from which irrigation might be easily conducted over hundreds of the Kuttungee villages. These sites were originally suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, Captain W. B. Thomson. One of them has been visited by Mr. Hanna and pronounced practicable. I have also been over it myself. The other site was shewn to me by the landholders themselves, who declared that they had long thought of the plan, and earnestly hoped that the Government would undertake it. During the next working season it is intended to mature both these projects, and to frame reliable Estimates of cost.

Proposed Reservoirs for irrigating the Kuttungee Valley.

237. In the Hills near the Bagh Nuddee, on the western limits of Chutteesghur, there is a basin where a large reservoir of many square miles in area might be formed at a comparatively trifling cost, by blocking the one outlet by which alone the waters can escape. From such a reservoir a valley containing twenty-two villages might be irrigated. The project has not been matured, but it is pronounced practicable by Engineer Officers, who have seen the place. At the request of some of the neighbouring landholders, I visited the spot and found the remains of materials of an unknown period, which must have been collected by some former dynasty with a view to this very work. The people declared that their villages, now poor, would be quadrupled in produce if this work were carried out.

Projected reservoir near the Bagh Nuddee.

238. The supervision and repairs of the lesser tanks in the Nagpore Province have been mentioned in the preceding Chapter relating to Land Revenue, paragraph 133.

SECTION VI.

Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

239. The miscellaneous and municipal works throughout these Provinces are managed by the Local Committees. In many districts these Committees have devoted themselves with marked success to municipal improvement during the year under review. Some of the more prominent instances may be mentioned here.

Municipal works at Nagpore.

240. At Nagpore itself the most progress has been effected. No less than five broad streets have been made right through the very worst parts of the city, due compensation having been paid to the owners of the huts and hovels which had to be demolished. The new streets have metalled roadways and masonry drains; and substantial houses are being erected by the people themselves facing both sides. Two large squares for handsome market places have been opened in the heart of the City, the requisite spaces having been cleared for that purpose. A complete conservancy system has been established, the drainge has been improved, and several masonry sewers have been constructed. A new market place of considerable size has also been constructed at Seetabuldee. The great tank (or rather lake) near the city has been enlarged and improved by extensive excavations, and three new tanks have been constructed in the Station of Seetabuldee. The Agri-horticultural Society's Garden has been greatly extended. Roads, a serpentine water, and bridges have been added to it. In four distinct places in the vicinity of Nagpore, half deserted and half ruined gardens, buildings and summer houses, constructed by the former Mahratta Dynasty, have been repaired and improved at considerable cost, so as to be fitted for public gardens. For the convenience of the inhabitants of the large bazaars in the neighbouring Cantonment of Kamptee, there have been constructed a large tank, a market place, and a caravanserai. In addition to these various works, there are the several caravanserais, branch roads and bridges around the City of Nagpore, the mention of which has been included in other Sections of this Chapter. Within the year no less than Rupees 3,84,275 or £38,427 have been spent on municipal improvements in and about Nagpore.

Public Gardens at Saugor.

241. The Saugor Lake was mentioned in my last Report, paragraph 313. At one extremity of this a large swamp had gradually formed itself right between the City and Civil Station, proving equally detrimental to both. This noxious marsh is now being converted partly into a public garden on a large scale, and partly into serpentine water connected with the lake. The garden will serve as a nursery of young trees for arboriculture throughout the Saugor District. This work will cost Rupees 25,000 or £2,500; it will not only prove an ornament, but also a sanatory benefit to this important locality.

Municipal works at Hingun Ghaut.

242. The town of Hingun Ghaut has heretofore been an agglomeration of thatched huts; the streets were wretched beyond the possibility of improvement, and the place periodically sufferod from destructive fires. After the last fire, the people agreed to build houses in well laid out streets, on good ground near the old town, if they could obtain assistance from the local funds in respect to supply of water. A large tank and some wells are accordingly being

constructed, and a new town is springing up around them. On the same spot various public buildings, such as the Tehseel Court House, the Caravanserai, and the School-house, are being erected. Thus by degrees Hingun Ghaut will become renovated.

Improvement at Jubbulpore and other places.

243. At Jubbulpore a new high street with a square and a market place have been constructed. At Seonee two market places and a large tank are being constructed. At Bhundara a broad and well drained street has been opened out right through a long and straggling town. At Chanda an anicut with bridge is being built across a stream, which will ensure an excellent supply of fresh water to the City. The new town and station of Sironcha have been laid out, and a tank excavated.

At Raepore streets, long and broad, are being formed, a market place is being constructed, and a swamp which extends from the city to the cantonment is ordered to be drained, so that ground, now covered with rank malarious vegetation, may become fitted for garden cultivation. Various minor improvements are being effected in the towns of Hoshungabad, Hurda, Ramteak, Oomrair, Belaspore and Sumbulpore.

144. The setting of Towns and Cities in order is probably of more importance to the civilization of the people than is at first sight apparent. The notorious deficiencies of Native Rule and Native institutions in this particular respect have been as great in this part of India as anywhere. It behoves us to give special attention to the subject, and it is satisfactory to state that there are few towns or stations in these Provinces, where the Local Authorities have not made a stride in Municipal improvement within the year under review.

Improvement of Ferries.

245. Owing to the number of unbridged streams, during the rainy season, it has been necessary to give special attention to the Ferries, which are very deficient in many parts of these Provinces. The Local Officers were urged to establish boats at the various points where such means of crossing might be needed. The number of additional boats, of various kinds which have been provided within the year for the various Ferries in these Provinces may be stated approximately at 40.

SECTION VII.—Total of Public Works.

Aggregate expenditure on Public Works for the past two years.

246. This Chapter may conclude with the following Abstract of Expenditure of all kinds on Public Works during the past two years :—

			Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Establishment.	Advances for Stock.	Total expenditure.	Budget allotment.	Local Works.	Grand Total expenditure.
1861-62 ...	...	Rupees	91,068	61,893	4,92,987	2,85,190	1,13,399	13,45,422	14,00,000	*	13,45,422
		£	9,106	6,189	49,298	28,510	41,340	134,542	140,000	...	134,542
1862-63	From the one per cent. Income Tax grant.	Rupees	1,98,020	1,21,440	7,60,010	3,53,003	1,99,665	16,30,047	18,11,000	1,97,300	21,30,950
		£	10,803	12,144	76,001	35,360	10,866	163,054	1,81,000	49,731	2,43,905
		Rupees	...	...	1,33,111	...	1,70,000	3,12,111	3,51,500	...	3,12,111
		£	...	...	13,311	...	17,000	31,211	35,150	...	31,211
	Total ...	Rupees	1,98,020	1,21,440	8,91,011	3,53,003	3,78,665	9,15,758	21,62,500	4,07,300	24,43,067
		£	10,803	12,144	89,402	35,360	37,866	91,575	216,250	49,730	244,306

* There was some expenditure, but its amount cannot accurately be ascertained.

The above expenditure is exclusive of the Godavery.

Expenditure for the current year.

247. For the current year 1863-64, the Budget allotment, *inclusive* of the Godavery, amounts to 26 lakhs of Rupees, or £260,000. The expenditure from Local Funds will be about 6 lakhs of Rupees, or £60,000. The grand total for 1863-64 will be about 32 lakhs of Rupees, or £320,000.

CHAPTER VII.

POST OFFICE.

A Post Master General required for these Provinces.

248. The Postal Lines in these Provinces are well arranged, and the Post Office Department is generally efficient. The control and supervision of the Department is, doubtless, susceptible of improvement. The superior Departmental Authorities are, under existing arrangements, too remote to be of real service. During the year under review I suggested to the Director General of Post Offices in India the desirability of having a Post Master General for the Central Provinces, provided that such an arrangement could be effected without any considerable expense. The isolation of these Provinces from other parts of India; the vast extent of Postal Lines within their limits; the difficulty of maintaining rapid communication during the inclement seasons, render it probable that, if a Post Master General, controlling all the Post Offices in Central India, were resident at the Head Quarters of the Civil Administration, a variety of reforms would be gradually introduced.

The new Post Offices opened.

249. Two new Post Offices have been established within the year—one at Belaspore the other at Sirouchа. It is probable that the approach of the Railway from Bombay towards Oomraotee will cause an alteration of the Postal arrangements between Nagpore and Bombay.

250. The subject of bringing the receipt and distribution of letters in the interior of districts, now conducted by the Civil Authorities, under the control and management of the Post Office Department has been mooted by the Director General of Post Offices during the last few months. If the change shall be carried out, it would, no doubt, be attended with an increased correspondence and public benefit among classes who now hardly use the Post Office at all.

CHAPTER VIII.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

Inefficient state of the Lines.

251. In my last Report, paragraph 822, it was stated that the Electric Telegraph Lines in these Provinces are absolutely inefficient during the rainy season, that is for four or even five months of the year. From the commencement of the monsoon the lines are virtually almost closed: indeed, the uncertainty and the frequent delays have been so great as to render the Electric Telegraph worse than useless for months together. In September last I specially addressed the Director General of Electric Telegraphs in India on the subject, showing that, out of a period of 124 days, the line had been closed for 68 days, or about

fully half of the period. During the past working season some efforts were made to improve the line; but during the present monsoon the communication is not much better than during the last. I do not desire to impute any blame to the authorities concerned, as departmental difficulties, doubtless, exist. But the actual result is unsatisfactory.

Lines from Jubbulpore to Saugor and in the Valley of the Godavery.

252. The expediency of constructing an Electric Telegraph Line from Jubbulpore to Saugor (mentioned in paragraph 324 of my last Report) has been admitted. The line has not actually been constructed as yet. A line from Sironcha down the Godavery to Doomagoodium, the Head Quarters of the Navigation Works, and thence to Rajamundry and Cocanada, will be essential to the due control of the important public works in progress, and to the success of departmental operations. Cocanada on the Coast is the basis of operations to Doomagoodium, and supplies much of the labour and materials for the Navigation Works of the Upper Godavery. It is, therefore, important that the Superintending Engineer at Doomagoodium should have means of rapid communication with his Agents on the Coast. At many seasons it is of the greatest consequence to know immediately the rise and fall of the River at different points. For instance, when the freshes are coming down in one part of the river, it is necessary that those in charge of works in other parts should have instant intelligence.

CHAPTER IX.

MARINE AND NAVIGATION.

Navigation of the Rivers Godavery and Mahanuddy.

253. During the year 1862-63 two matters, as deeply affecting the future commercial interests of these Provinces, have occupied much attention. They are, *first*, the navigation of the River Godavery; *second*, the River Mahanuddy. It will be proper to advert to each of these in order.

Control of the Upper Godavery Works entrusted to this Administration.

254. By a Resolution of the Government of India, dated 29th December 1862, the control of the Navigation Works and Establishments on the Upper Godavery River was entrusted to the Administration of the Central Provinces. In the months of August and September 1862 I travelled up and down the River, from the Falls of the Wurda near Hingun Ghaut in the Nagpore Province to Cocanada the sea-port. During that tour I had the advantage of conferring with Captain Haig and all the Officers of the Navigation Department. Thereafter, in January 1863, I submitted to the Supreme Government a Report on the river, on the trade and circumstances of the countries adjacent to it, and on the projects of improving the navigation. The orders of the Supreme Government have been received, prescribing the manner in which the various works are to be proceeded with. It is now necessary that I should briefly recapitulate the substance of that Report and of the orders received thereon.

The Godavery and its affluents.

255. The great natural drainage system, which consists of several rivers converging on the Godavery and then flowing in an united stream to the sea, may be thus set forth :—

Rivers.	Total Miles.	Unnavigable or difficult of navigation.	Navigable for half the year only.	Remarks.
Wurdah	250	149	101	
Pyne Gunga	320	314	6	
Wyn Gunga	430	430	0	
Pranheeta	90	35	55	
Godavery Proper ...	650	630	20	Including Dowlaishwaram Canal.
Godavery Great ...	250	34	216	
Indrawutty	300	300	0	
Tal	120	115	5	
Sibbree	200	180	20	
Total ...	2,610	2,187	423	

It abates somewhat from the highest hopes which might be formed for improvement in this country to reflect on the comparatively small proportion out of so vast a river system, which is known to be good for navigation so far as our information goes.

The navigable portions of the river.

256. The main line of proposed water communication on the Godavery may be stated as follows :—

	Miles.
From Falls of the Wurda to Head of 3rd Barrier	101
The length of the Barrier	35
From foot of 3rd Barrier to Head of 2nd Barrier	75
The length of 2nd Barrier	14
From foot of 2nd Barrier to Head of 1st Barrier	68
Length of 1st Barrier to Bhudrachellum	20
From Bhudrachellum to Dowlaishwaram	98
From Dowlaishwaram to Cocanada on the Sea by Canal ...	34
Total ...	445

Countries of which the trade is affected by the navigation.

257. The countries of which the trade will be affected by the opening of the navigation are the country of Nagpore Proper, the country of Chuttoesghur, and the valley of the Godavery itself. I do not mention Berar, because it is understood here that all its requirements will be supplied by the Railway thence to Bombay. But as Berar does not belong to this administration, it is not necessary that I should allude further to the bearings of the Godavery Navigation Project upon that Province. As regards Nagpore, the matter of absorbing interest is, without doubt, the opening of the Railway to Bombay.

But if the Godavery route were fairly opened, it is probable that quantities of the Nagpore produce might prefer the river to the Rail. The Nagpore Province, indeed, if properly developed, might find work for both. Again as the Nagpore Troops belong to the Madras Presidency, stores of all kinds and many reinforcements would come by the Godavery route. As regards the valley of the Godavery itself and its affluents, the importance of the navigation project is as great, if not greater than ever. On the whole the project would affect mainly the interests of the Central Provinces, and some parts of the Nizam's Dominions. It would stimulate production in the Nagpore Province, would cause population to increase in the Southern Districts especially, and would give rise to a great trade with the Eastern Coast of the Madras Presidency.

Trade of the Nagpore Province.

258. The trade of Nagpore may be stated approximately as follows :—

Exports.	Maunds of 82 lbs.	Value.	Imports.	Maunds of 82 lbs.	Value.
		Trade with Bombay.			
		Rupees.			Rupees.
Cotton ...	85,000	13,00,000	Salt ...	200,000	10,00,000
Linseed ...	100,000	2,50,000	European Piece-goods ...	...	7,00,000
Gingelly ...	50,000	1,50,000	Bullion { Silver ...	...	5,00,000
Horns ...	...	5,000	Bullion { Gold ...	...	10,00,000
Hides (latterly only) ...	...	5,000	Silk ...	1,200	1,00,000
Ghee or clarified butter ...	10,000	1,50,000	European stores ...	7,000	2,00,000
Red ochre ...	3,000	5,000	Articles of hardware, brass and copper vessels ...	5,000	1,00,000
Coarse cloth ...	...	10,00,000	Dyes ...	1,000	50,000
			Miscellaneous ...	35,000	2,00,000
		Trade with Calcutta.			
Hides ...	...	50,000	Bullion { Silver ...	...	...
			Bullion { Gold ...	...	5,00,000
			Sugar ...	20,000	3,50,000
			Articles of hardware, brass and copper vessels, &c. ...	5,000	20,000
			Silk ...	4,000	3,00,000
			European Piece-goods ...	...	4,00,000
			Miscellaneous ...	5,000	25,000
		Trade with Eastern Coast.			
			Military stores about ...	500 Tons	
			Tobacco and cloth ...	...	80,000
			Cocoanuts ...	...	1,00,000
Total, Exports ...	...	29,15,000	Total, Imports ...	...	55,75,000

The total value may be estimated at 85 lakhs of Rupees, or about one million sterling per annum.

Comparative transit charges by River and by Rail.

259. How far, then, would this traffic be affected by the navigation projects, it being remembered that the Railway will soon be opened from Bombay to Nagpore? If the obstacles of all the three barriers of the Godavery were removed, and all parts of the project completed, there would be river navigation from the sea coast to Hingun Ghaut for, at least, a part of each year. If the two first barriers were removed, and not the third or upper barrier, there would still be navigation up to foot of 3rd barrier within 75 miles of Chandah and 118 of Hingun Ghaut. Now it has been shown in my detailed Report that if the river were open to Hingun Ghaut according to known rates as now existing, then carriage to Cocanada would amount to Rupees 11-9-5 per ton; and to Bombay by Rail to Rupees 34-6-0 per ton. So far the difference is greatly in favor of the river; but if the river were only open to foot of the 3rd barrier, then by this route, partly land and partly water, the cost of carriage from Hingun Ghaut to Cocanada would amount to Rupees 26-6-8, or from Cocanada to Hingun Ghaut (up river), Rupees 29-9-9. In that case there would only be a slight difference in favor of the river. The general conclusion appears to be that, as regards the bulky produce of southern part of Nagpore, the water carriage, if available to and from Hingun Ghaut, would have a decided advantage over the Railway; and that, if it were opened only to the foot of the 3rd barrier, it would be able to compete with the Rail. As regards, however, the rich country round Nagpore itself, the river, if open to Hingun Ghaut, could compete with the Rail for the heavier traffic; but if the river were open only to foot of the 3rd barrier, then the Rail would have the advantage. For the lighter and the more valuable goods traffic, or for the passenger traffic, there does not appear to be any chance of the river being, under any circumstances, able to compete with the Rail from Bombay to Nagpore.

Prospects of future Trade.

260. It is, of course, impossible to calculate the extent to which the present trade would grow when good communication shall be opened to the Coast. There would, however, be, doubtless, an increase in the exportation of iron, linseed and oil-seeds, sugar, hides and the like. There would also be a considerable importation of salt by this route, inasmuch as water carriage would cause a saving of more than 50 per cent. in the cost of salt to the Consumer in the southern parts of the Nagpore Province. In the carriage of Military stores there would be great saving to Government. By the present route, the transit cost is Rupees 138 a ton from Masulipatam to Nagpore. If the navigation of the Godavery were open to foot of the 3rd barrier, this cost would be reduced to Rupees 47-13-0, or to Rupees 31-11-5 if it were open to Hingun Ghaut.

Future transit of Cotton.

261. Of cotton there would be a large supply available for export either by Rail or by river. Which of the two rates then would it prefer? Now, in respect of cost of carriage, there would be a great difference in favor of the river if the navigation were open to Hingun Ghaut; though none at all for pressed cotton if the navigation were open to foot of the 3rd barrier only. The Rail might have a decisive advantage over the river in respect of time. The cotton is ready for export by March, whereas the navigation would not be open till June. On the whole, it seems probable that much of the cotton of the Wurda Valley will go by Rail to Bombay rather than by river to Cocanada.

Trade of Chutteesghur with Nagpore.

262. The trade of Chutteesghur with Nagpore has been ascertained to be worth per annum :—

Exports	...	...	...	Rupees	10,20,000 or £102,000
Imports,	...	...	...	Rupees	5,20,000 or £52,000

vide paragraph 223 preceding. A portion of this traffic might, perhaps, follow the Godavery route. There is also a track from Chutteesghur to Sironcha frequented at certain seasons by the Bunjarra traders with their large droves of laden bullocks. It is now proposed to improve this track and conduct it to the foot of the 3rd barrier. Of the articles exportable from Chutteesghur by the Godavery, the principal would be cotton, oilseed, fibres, ghee (clarified butter), coarse cloth, and lac. In return for these would come from the Eastern Coast European goods, brass vessels, cocoanuts, and salt.

The Valley of the Godavery.

263. The Valley of the Godavery and the Pranheeta commences from the junction of the Wyn Gunga with the Wurda, the united streams being thenceforward called the Pranheeta, till the Godavery joins, where the combined streams bears the joint name of Godavery. The left or northern banks of the river is under British rule; its Head Quarters being at Sironcha. The right or southern bank belongs to the Nizam of the Deccan.

District of Sironcha.

264. The British District of Sironcha is a long narrow strip on the river side, being bounded on one side by the river and on the other by Bastar Territory; its extreme length or river frontage may be stated at 224 miles; its breadth of course varies, but may be stated, on the average, to be about 16 miles. It has an area of 3,905 square miles (including Bhopalputnum). The cultivation is scanty, amounting to only 60,608 acres or 95 square miles. It is calculated that there are 241,600 acres of the first sort, and 428,864 of the second sort, culturable. The population is scanty, there being only 388 villages, with a population ascertained by census to be 35,000 souls. The people are chiefly Gonds, and also Teloogoo people, immigrants from the coast districts. Bhudrachellum is the only place that can be called a town. The revenue amounts to Rupees 20,000 or £2,000 per annum. The present products are wheat, millet, rice, oilseed, plantain and palmyra trees. The future hopes of agricultural wealth depend on the production of sugar, indigo, linseed and cotton, all of which can be produced on this soil. There is at present an utter deficiency of labor. The future supply must be by emigration from the west or Nizam's country, but chiefly from the south and east, that is from the coast districts. Already the base of communication for all operations on the Godavery is the Delta. It is from thence that all resources are drawn, and from thence that the majority of workmen and laborers are obtained. Of these many are drawn from the agricultural class, and might be induced to settle in lands near the works, and to send for their relations and families.

Its resources.

Its climate.

265. The climate is not so bad as may have sometimes been supposed. The fall of rain is copious every season. There is great heat for three months, but the rest of the year is comparatively cool. There is not much swamp to cause bad malaria. In the autumn and in

the early winter fever is very prevalent. Few strangers, whether European or Native, escape a mild type of fever; but exposure in the jungles from September to January will inevitably cause serious sickness. Also, if round any station, settlement, or habitation, jungle is permitted to grow thick, the dwellers will have bad fever. It seems essential that the benefits of the service should be secured to those who have to carry on important operations in an unhealthy country. I may add that near Sironcha a small Sanatarium on the Sirkonda Hill, 1,300 feet above the level of the Sea, has been experimentally established; and that an examination of the range of Hills on the British side of the river has shown them to be unfit for sanatory purposes.

Its forests.

266. There are forests on the British side within reach of the Godavery. The best of them, however, have been much exhausted. In 1860-61 some 25,000 teak logs were floated down. There is a good supply of second rate and third rate teak, which timber can be used for many purposes. Also the saj *(Pentaptera Tomentosa Terminalia)*, the bajee saul *(Pterocarpus Marsupium)*, the eromuddee *(Pentaptera Arjuna)*, the unjun *(Hardwickia Binata)*, the blackwood, and the ebony are to be met with in abundance, and most of these would be exported in great quantities by the river.

The right or Nizam's bank of the Godavery.

267. The right or Nizam's bank is much the finer of the two. It has some breadth of cultivation and four considerable towns. Its lower section possesses a large number of fine tanks for irrigation. The tract is divided into three administrative divisions, of which the area, population and revenue, so near as I could estimate them, may be stated as follows:—

Division.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	
	Square Miles.	Souls.	Rupees.	£.
Seerpore	900	15,000	46,000	4,600
Yelma	3,000	70,000	70,000	7,000
Husumabad, Shan Kurgiri ...	2,000	50,000	45,000	4,500
Total ...	5,900	135,000	1,61,000	16,100

Statistics of the Godavery Valley.

268. The general Statistics of the Godavery Valley, including both sides, may be thus abstracted:—

	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	
	Square miles.	Souls.	Rupees.	£.
Right or Nizam's bank ...	5,900	135,000	1,61,000	16,100
Left or British bank ...	3 905	82,850	29,000	2,900
Total ...	9,805	167,850	1,90,000	19,000

269. For the topography of the valley reference can be made to my detailed Report. But in order to facilitate the comprehension of the valley, as a whole, it will be desirable to recapitulate its main features on each side simultaneously, as they appear to the visitor passing down the river from the Nagpore country to the delta of the Godavery.

Topography and scenery of the Valley.

270. Starting, then, for the falls of the Wurda, near Hingun Ghaut, the voyager would see, on the right hand, the wild hilly country of the Nizam's dominions; and on the left, or British side, a broad level valley covered with cultivation. Further down the river, past the junction of the Wyn Gunga, as the 3rd or upper barrier is approached, the rich valley on the left becomes narrower and narrower, more and more trenched upon by hill and forest, till it is restricted to a fringe of cultivation along the river's bank; while on the right hand the country somewhat improves, and though still hilly is more open. The junction of the Wyn Gunga is hidden from view by the hills. The barrier itself lies closed in by rocky hills and dense forests, a narrow strip being left on the right bank along which the tramroad or the canal is to pass. Below the barrier, the river is called the Pranheeta. On the left or British side, the hills at first arrange themselves in picturesque groups, one of which has been compared by some to the group of seven mountains (Sieben Gebirge) on the Rhine; and after that continue, for many miles, almost to overhang the river, sometimes displaying the fine foliage and blossoms of the teak tree, down to the water's edge. On the opposite or Nizam's bank, the most noticeable feature is the mouth of the Bibree Stream, justly noted for its beauty. Further down, on the British side, the only point of note is Sironcha, with its old Fort overlooking the water; the country continuing to be hilly or jungly, with patches of cultivation. But on the opposite or foreign side, the junction of the Godavery Proper causes great tongues of land and broad basins to be formed, all which are partially cultivated, and are dotted over by such towns as Chinnoor, Muntanee, Mahadeopore, and the sacred Kaleshwur. Then the hills, of some variety and beauty, cluster thick round the second or middle barrier. The junction of the Indrawutty is concealed from view by the hills, which, rising one above the other, run almost parallel with the river, till the junction of the Tál is reached. On the opposite or Nizam's side, again, the country is more cultivated and open, and marked by the towns of Nagaraw and Mungumpett. Below the latter place, again, the sacred Hill of Rootub Goota rises into view, immediately opposite to Doomagoodium on the British bank, where the Head Quarters of the Navigation Department are established. Proceeding downwards at the 1st or lower barrier, the country is comparatively level on both sides, and this barrier is far less formidable than the two preceding ones. Below the barrier, down to the junction of the Sibbree, the prominent object on the British side consists of the small Hills of Bhudrachellum, crowned with the cupolas, cones and spires of Hindoo temples. On the opposite or Nizam's side is that Tauk region, which, extending inland, some 250 miles, to beyond Wurrungul, the Capital of ancient Telingana, is marked by the remains of countless works of agricultural improvement, attesting a wisdom in the past, not known to the Native dynasties of the present.

Hill scenery of the River.

271. Near the junction of the Sibbree, the Godavery River scenery begins to assume an imposing appearance. Hitherto, as it passed each barrier and gained the successive steps in its course, the river has been increasing in width, generally being about a mile broad, and sometimes even 2½ miles. Here also the whole range of the Eastern Ghaut Mountains comes fully into view, some 2,500 feet high, bounding the whole horizon and towering over all the lesser and detached hills that flank the river. Passing the Sibbree junction, the Godavary becomes more and more contracted, and pressed on either side by the spurs of the main range, till at length it forces a passage between them, penetrating, by an almost precipitous gorge, through the heart of the mountains that mark the frontier of the Central Provinces. It is at this gorge that the scenery of this river has been justly compared to that of the Rhine. Imprisoned for some 20 miles between the hills, the river flows in a narrow but very deep channel, with a current that sometimes lashes itself into boiling whirlpools. Then, escaping from its imprisonment, the mass of water spreads itself over a broad smooth surface, resembling a lake surrounded with hills and dotted with Islands, some of which are surmounted with Hindoo temples. Then, finally emerging from the hills, it forms itself into one mighty stream between flat cultivated banks, till, passing by the Madras Station of Rajahmundry, and approaching the great Dowlaishwaram Anicut, it breaks off into those numerous channels which permeate the Delta. At Dowlaishwaram there commences that net-work of canals which not only irrigate the lands, but also afford perfect navigation to the Sea-port of Cocanada.

Present condition of the Valley.

272. This, then, is the great valley, through the midst of which nature has spread out a great river, navigable at some seasons, except for certain obstacles, which seem actually to invite the skill and enterprise of man for their removal. It is owing to those obstructions that the river has not been navigated. It is owing to the river not being navigable that the valley, situate so far inland, cut off by distance and by ranges of hills from ordinary land routes, has had no natural outlet, no facilities for immigration and colonization, no stimulus to internal and external trade. It is owing to the want of such advantages that the valley has remained, for centuries, in a condition of degradation and desolation, so different from the condition of the valleys of the other great rivers in India. Whatever be the effect of the Godavery navigation upon other Districts, there cannot be a doubt that its effect upon these, the Valley Districts, will be great and satisfactory. It *will*, immensely, stimulate production in the Valley of the Godavery itself, and will carry the produce of *that* District to the sea coast. But such happy consequences may not be immediate ; on the contrary, they will be gradual, and even slow, for so vast a waste is not easily reclaimed, such interminable forests are not quickly cleared ; nor do towns and villages spring up in a day ; nor is the requisite human labor obtained, except through the gradual accumulation of the surplus population from other Districts, and through the multiplying of the indigenous population from one generation to another. Still, however, long of attainment, the result will ultimately be attained. And such a subject is, indeed, worthy of the comprehensive forethought of a great Government.

Works for improvement of the Navigation.

273. For the improvement of the navigation, the main descriptions of Works now proposed are as follows:—

For the 1st barrier,—Anicut at head and Canal of twenty-five miles with Locks.

For the 2nd barrier,—Anicut with a short Canal of five miles with Locks. For this barrier a larger project has been considered, of an Anicut and Canal of, perhaps, forty miles.

For the 3rd barrier,—Anicut at head with Canal of 33 miles with Locks.

For the intermediate reaches of the river—

1*st*.—Clearing navigable passage of detached rocks generally.

2*nd*.—Cutting through ridge of sandstone rocks between 1st and 2nd barriers.

3*rd*.—Groins in shoaly pass of the river bed, to confine and regulate flow of streams.

4*th*.—Towing paths.—Complete Estimates for some of these are under preparation; for the remainder no formal Estimates have been commenced. Therefore, no reliable Statements of cost can be given. But it appears certain that the aggregate expenditure would be, at least, 75 lakhs of Rupees, or £750,000; and would, probably, exceed that sum.

Order in which the works are to be carried on.

274. The Supreme Government, after considering the subject in the light of such information as can be brought to bear upon it, have held that, by completing the line of Godavery navigation past the 1st and 2nd barriers, and up to the foot of the 3rd barrier, the rich southern part of the Central Provinces will get the advantage of the river route for the export of its produce, and the import of its foreign supplies; that this part of the project will be complete in itself, and of certain utility, even if the navigation be open for only four or five months in the year; that the works, on the more moderate scale, will be perfectly suitable for the more extended project, should its execution be desired; and that the project regarding the 3rd barrier should be set aside for the present, until the smaller one is actually carried out to completion; or is in a much more matured state than at present. Under this view, these works on the 1st barrier, which have been commenced, are to be vigorously carried out; the complete Estimate for this part of the project is expected soon. The preparation of full Designs and Estimates for the work at the 2nd barrier is to be proceeded with as pressing and urgent. The tramways at the 1st and 2nd barriers are to be completed; care is to be taken that the minor works in the intermediate reaches of the river between the barriers shall be completed, at least, as soon as the Canals and Locks. All work at the 3rd barrier is to be stopped for the present. A good metalled road from Chanda to the foot of the 3rd barrier (70 miles) is to be undertaken at once. The completion of this work

The 1st and 2nd Barriers.

Road from Chanda to the foot of the 3rd Barrier.

simultaneously with the opening of the 1st and 2nd barriers is essential. If the navigation works at the 3rd barrier shall be eventually undertaken, this road will still act as a feeder. The completion of the Telegraphic and Postal communication between Nagpore and Rajahmundry, along the course of the Godavery, is to be favorably considered. The works thus indicated might, with vigorous exertion, be completed within three years; and would open the river for navigation from the sea to the foot of 3rd barrier uninterruptedly, a distance of 300 miles. This mode of navigation would attract the produce and traffic of the Valley of Godavery itself of a portion of Eastern Nagpore. It would also obtain a share of the trade of the Valley of the Wurda.

Project for the 3rd Barrier.

275. That the opening of the 3rd barrier, and the extending of the navigation to Hingun Ghaut, would prove of immense benefit to the Nagpore country is manifest. But this would involve a very heavy expense, not only at the 3rd barrier itself, but also in various works of indefinite extent for the improvement of the Wurda above the barrier. It is probable that a vast reservoir, or artificial lake, would be needed to store water for the supply of the Wurda. Special enquiries on this subject have been made during the past season; and a site for such a reservoir has been discovered. This project was described in the preceding paragraph 230 of this Report. Its execution, however, would involve a large outlay amounting to many lakhs of Rupees.

The Flotilla of River Steamers.

276. The Flotilla of Steamers, mentioned in Chapter VIII. of my last Administration Report, is essentially necessary for the prosecution of the works, as the vessels convey labor and materials, to which work they are primarily to be devoted. At the same time they may accept such freight as they can carry without prejudice to their regular duty.

Notice of Officers engaged in the works.

277. Before concluding this Report, I desire to acknowledge the obligations which the Central Provinces owe to the Government of Madras for its having, during the past seven years, consistently advocated, supported, and now actually commenced this navigation project, with a foresight and discrimination which will (we may hope) be one day rewarded by the attainment of, at least, many of the results anticipated. I would also beg to add my tribute of admiration to the professional ability, breadth of view, and boldness of conception with which Sir A. Cotton and Captain Haig framed this project and moulded it into practical shape. I would commend, to the favorable consideration of the Supreme Government, the exertions of Captain Haig and his Officers in executing the preliminaries of the various works. Foremost of the many difficulties with which they have successfully contended has been the insalubrity of a climate, from which all have suffered, more or less, severely. Among the Officers I would mention the names of Lieutenants Montgomerie and Roberts; Major Stevens, the Traffic Agent; Mr. Mackenny, Mr. Dennision and Mr. MacGregor. I would refer to the difficult, indeed perilous, service performed by Messrs. Grossilier and Farley in conducting the Steamers over the barriers in the flood season of 1861.

278. It has been seen already that the second great outlet provided by nature for these Provinces is the River Mahanuddy. I am preparing a special and full Report upon that river and its feeders, and upon the countries they water. In that Report, I may be able, in some slight degree, to do justice to the subject. At this place I can only epitomize the various matters connected with it. To illustrate the main points, as they will now be presented, a Sketch Map is appended.

The River Mahanuddy.

279. The Mahanuddy, then, rises in a mountainous region, (about 85 miles south of Raipore,) which bounds the Chutteesghur Plateau on the south, and divides it from the Bustar country. This country is, probably, the wildest of all the wild parts of these Provinces. The river then flows in a northerly direction, pass the towns of Dhumterry and Aring, and so arrives at a point named Sheonarain. Thus far it has been a comparatively insignificant stream, and is never navigated. But near here it is joined by three Affluents—the Sheonath, the Jonk, and the Husdoo. The Jonk is a stream that rises in the same Hills as the Mahanuddy itself—it is never navigated.

The Jonk River.

The Husdoo River.

The Husdoo, rising from the north in the uplands of Sirgooja, flows southwards to join the Mahanuddy and is navigated for about 30 miles before its junction. The Sheonath up to this point is a finer stream than the Mahanuddy, it rises in the Range which separates the Chutteesghur from the Nagpore country, and is navigated for about 50 or 60 miles above its junction.

The Sheonath River.

280. From this point the Mahanuddy—considerably increased in volume, and quite navigable during the greater part of the year—takes an easterly course for 60 miles to a point near Paddumpore. During this space it is joined by two feeders, the Mand and the Kailon, running downwards from the north, the former of which is navigated for a short distance. Here it changes its course in a southerly direction, and enters into a series of rocks cropping up all over its bed, splitting it into streamlets for several miles, and causing it to be, if not unnavigable, at least very difficult of navigation. Then it is joined by the Ebe, a stream of similar character flowing from the north-east, in parts navigable. Then again struggling through masses of rocks, the Mahanuddy passes by Sumbulpore. Here its course is less obstructed, but is occasionally interrupted by mighty rocks, the terror of boatmen, standing up mid-stream and realizing the exact notion of Scylla and Charybdis. Thus it passes by Binka and Sonepore, at which latter place it is joined by the Tél, a fine stream rising far south in the Hills of Kalahundy, and occasionally navigated during the rainy season. Below Sonepore, the Mahanuddy, taking an easterly course, pursues a tortuous way, cribbed, confined, and tossed about between ridges and ledges, and masses of rocks for many miles, till, passing Boad, it reaches a place called Dholepore. After this its troubles and vicissitudes among the rocks come to an end; and rolling its unrestrained waters along,

Course of the Mahanuddy.

The River Ebe.

The River Tél.

The Mahanuddy below Sonepore.

it makes straight for the range of the Eastern Ghaut Mountains. Then it pierces the mountains by a gorge about 40 miles in length slightly inferior in grandeur, but equal in beauty, to the gorge of the Godavery. Here, over-looked by the Hills and shaded by forests on either side, it flows deep and is quite navigable at all seasons. Emerging from the Hills it expands its bed and spreads itself over sands till it reaches Cuttack where the Delta commences. The total distance by river from Nund Ghaut, where the Sheonath commences to be navigated, to Cuttack amounts to 350 miles.

The Mahanuddy below the eastern Ghaut mountain.

281. The countries watered by this great river system are of various kinds, from the best to the worst. At their sources, both the Mahanuddy and the Sheonath run through wild and poor tracts. But as they approach their confluence, the country enclosed between them is well cultivated, being the very heart of the Raepore District. The Sheonath also flows, for many miles, within a short distance of the Lanjee Hills. Between these Hills and the River there lies a tract rich in cotton and cereals,—on the whole the finest part of the Chutteesghur Plateau, and in natural advantages, one of the most promising tracts in the Central Provinces. The Husdoo also, for the last 50 miles of its course, flows through a cultivated country. And the broad plains of Ruttunpore (Belaspore District) enclosed between it and the Sheonath are well cultivated and thickly inhabited. The Jonk River runs through an insalubrious country covered with forest, as yet but little invaded by man. But up to this point, that is to Sheonarain, the country watered by the Mahanuddy, Sheonath and Husdoo, is a noble one, a really vast champaign already cultivated and inhabited, furnishing a great amount of surplus produce for exportation; and capable of infinite productive improvement. This is the tract described in paragraph 278 of my last Report. The products are cotton, sugar, wheat, rice, linseed and other oilseeds, gram and hemp. So superabundant is agricultural produce beyond the demand of consumption on the spot, that prices of grain are often three times as cheap in Chutteesghur as elsewhere, and sometimes the proportion has even been greater. For some years past there has been a considerable exportation of grain to Nagpore, and recently to Berar, and even to Hyderabad in the Deccan. In the jungles which surround Chutteesghur, lacdye and resin are produced and exported in quantities to Mirzapore. At Koorba on the Husdoo, 30 miles above its junction with the Mahanuddy, there are coal fields of fair quality and considerable extent, and also some iron ore. In the Hills near the Jonk there are the remains of teak forests, much exhausted at present, but now conserved with a view to reproduction; and saul forests of practically boundless extent.

The countries watered by the Mahanuddy and its feeders.

The Chutteesghur Country.

Its products and resources.

282. Below Sheonarain down to Puddumpore, the left bank of the river is well cultivated to a breadth of several miles; and the Valley of the Mand is cultivated to a considerable extent. But the right bank is, for the most part, jungly and insalubrious. Past Puddumpore, the river runs beneath the wild and inhospitable range of Hills called the Bara Pahra; and the country on both banks is unpromising. Below this there is the Valley of the

The Valley of the Mahanuddy.

Ebe, which is, in parts, well cultivated, and presents a field for increased culture. Near Sumbulpore, again, the country is cultivated on both banks. The left bank presents really beautiful rice fields and on the right bank there stretches out the broad cultivated plateau called Dukkun Teer, which joins again the fairly inhabited country of Sonepore. Opposite Sonepore, and a little above it, the left bank becomes somewhat hedged in by Hills, but again it opens out into a cultivated plain, which, situate between ranges of Hills and the River, continues south-eastwards many miles until the Eastern Ghauts come into sight.

The Sumbulpore Country.

283. The agricultural produce of these Territories is much the same as that of Chutteesghur.* In the Rehenole and Bamra country, on the left bank, there are iron and timber and in the Khurrear country there are teak forests.

284. Now if the two governing points, Sheonarain and Sonepore, be borne in mind, it will be seen that the Mahanuddy, flowing first northwards, then turning eastwards and again southwards, encircles in a vast loop a considerable tract of country. The country thus environed with a river system on all sides is neither rich nor promising. It has, indeed, the Dukkun Teer Plateau and the Sonepore country, and in its centre there are the plains of Thooljur fertile in soil, but scantily cultivated; and this much is good. The rest, though not uninhabited, is yet wild, mountainous and woody, occupied by Gurjat Chiefs who rule over a scanty people in the lowest stage of Indian civilization. Still even here there are occasionally (as for instance near Patna) traces of former habitation and even of a past greatness—which, attesting what the country has been, proves what it may yet become.

Country of the Gurjat States.

285. Below Sonepore on the right bank of the river there is the Tél Valley, which near the junction is only partially cultivated; but which is connected further south with the Kalahundy country, where cultivation already exists, where quantities of surplus produce could certainly be raised, and whence already some boat-loads of produce already come annually. On the left bank of the Mahanuddy there succeeds the Bond country, which is indifferent both in present condition and in future prospects. The Eastern Ghaut Mountains, of course, present nothing but forests, and even these not in great abundance. Below them the rich Delta of Cuttack (under the Bengal Government) needs no description from me.

Lower Valley of the Mahanuddy.

286. It is manifest then that, of the countries watered by the Mahanuddy and its feeders, the best, by far, is that which lies above the confluence of the Sheonath and the Husdoo; and that the remainder is wild and hilly, interspersed with cultivated tracts along the banks of the several rivers, which tracts sometimes expand into valleys; and in one point only, that is near Sumbulpore, open out into a really broad plateau. Of these several countries the hilly parts have been topographically surveyed. The champaign country, at least that which is under British Administration, is being surveyed field by field, so as to show all particulars relating to cultivation. But a space of one or two years will elapse

Resources of the Districts adjacent to the Mahanuddy.

before these data are complete. For the country under the rule of Rajahs and Chiefs such particulars will never be procurable. It is clear, however, that the cultivated area of Chutteesghur must amount to many hundreds of square miles, probably to 2,500; and its population is estimated at two millions of souls. The resources of the Sumbulpore District and its Dependencies must be less than half the amount represented by the above estimate. The total area connected with the Mahanuddy and its tributaries is vast, and cannot be less than 20,000 square miles. The productive resources, though small, of course, as compared with such an area, and though scattered over long distances, do yet amount to a very considerable aggregate; and present a vast, and perhaps a profitable, field for enterprise. These great cultivated plateau; these several rich valleys; these surplus stores of cotton, sugar, grain, oilseeds and fibre; these coal fields and iron mines and forests; these jungles, abounding in articles fit for the use of man, are all locked-up far inland, imprisoned among the mountains. From them there would be sent forth exports of considerable variety, and in large quantities to the sea ports of the Coast, if only cheap and easy communication were provided. The amount of exports, even now, despatched by toilsome wearing and tearing routes, is but an earnest of what the future traffic would become if reasonable facilities were offered. This population, which though scattered and reduced by unhappy circumstances below its former numbers, is still considerable; which is now ignorant in its isolation, and content with the barest subsistence, would rapidly learn all those new wants and tastes which are always produced by intercourse with the outer world.

The present Land Routes for traffic.

287. The existing traffic connected with these various Districts follows several routes; the river routes have been already mentioned. The principal land route is that from Chutteesghur to Nagpore, by which the cotton and the surplus grain from the Valley of the Sheonath is carried in carts. The road is that which is now called the Eastern Line; it passes, after leaving the Chutteesghur limits, through a jungly country, in a westerly direction, till it reaches the Wyn Gunga; during the winter months it is literally blocked up and choked up with endless strings of carts. From Chutteesghur this line proceeds eastwards till it meets the Mahanuddy at Sumbulpore, having a branch to Binka also on the river. At present this Great Eastern Line is the only line traversed by *carts*: for the other lines, now to be mentioned, the carriage *consists of pack bullocks only*. The next line to be mentioned is that by the Pass which leads from the north-western corner of the Chutteesghur Plateau, across the mountains, by Mundla to Jubbulpore. From the upper extremity of Chutteesghur, known as the Ruttunpore country, there run northwards two hilly routes; one winding round the Umurkuntuk Mountains, falls into the Valley of the Soane near Sohagpore, and then proceeds onwards to join the Grand Trunk Road near Rewah *en route* to Mirzapore; the other crosses mountains which overlook Chutteesghur, and passing over the undulating and upland country of Sirgoojah, crosses the Soane near Mirzapore, and thus meets that great mart. Another route follows the banks of the Mahanuddy from Sheonarain downwards, passing by the Towns of Chunderpore, Puddumpore, Sumbulpore, Binka, Sonepore, Boad, Kuntaloo to Cuttack. This road has been, more or less, made throughout, and in the section below Boad it has been greatly improved

The Great Eastern Line.

under orders of the Bengal Government. Again, there is a route from Raepore across the country of Khurrear, Patna, and Kalahundy to Ganjam on the Coast; it is by this route that the supplies of salt for all Chutteesghur are brought. This is one of the wildest and unhealthiest routes in all India, though it is, at present, very important. Lastly, there is the route from Dhumterry, south of Raepore, which crosses the great wilderness, a desperately bad country, to join the Godavery near Sironcha.

288. The amount of the existing traffic, by all these several routes, by land and water, may be approximately stated as below, from enquiries made on the spot, and from the statistics collected by persons specially appointed for that purpose :—

Routes.	By Land.				By Water.			
	Export.		Import.		Export.		Import.	
	Bulk.	Value.	Bulk.	Value.	Bulk.	Value.	Bulk.	Value.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Chutteesghur to Nagpore ...	800,000	10,20,000	15,000	20,000				
Ditto to Sumbulpore and Binka ...	120,000	3,25,000	45,000	80,000				
Ditto by Mandla to Jubbulpore ..	135,000	3,57,570						
Ditto by Ruttenpore to Mirzapore ..	80,000	1,85,000	1,700	85,000				
Sheonarain by Sumbulpore, Road and Kuntaloo to Cuttack ...	11,400	23,000	*4,200	10,600	42,400	71,700	36,700	88,000
Raepore by Kalahundy to Ganjam ..	.....	.....	150,000	3,10,000				
Dhumterry to Godavery near Sironcha ..	(not known).							

* 82 lbs. each.

289. I will now advert briefly to the character of the navigation on the Mahanuddy, and the best means of improving it.

Water route from Chutteesghur in the monsoon season.

290. There is already a traffic from Chutteesghur by the Mahanuddy during the rainy season. About 200 boats are thus employed. They are laden at Nundghaut on the Sheonath, and thence pass down to Cuttack and back again within the season. The value of the goods they take and bring is estimated at a lakh of Rupees (£ 10,000) annually. During the dry season also a few small boats venture down, and are dragged laboriously over the shoals. This precarious item of trade does not exceed Rupees 10,000 or £1,000 in value. Last year the boats thus employed were 28 in number.

Boats on the Mahanuddy.

291. Lower down the river the depôts for boats are at *Sumbulpore*, *Binka*, *Sonepore*, and Kuntaloo, the last named place being on the Cuttack side of the Eastern Ghauts. For the two former places the numbers of boats are as follows :—

At Sumbulpore	...	...	...	500 boats.
At Binka	...	...	...	305 ,,

The boats are all of a long narrow canoe-like shape, expressly constructed for dangerous and intricate navigation. They are of several sizes. In the rainy or monsoon season,

they ply up and down the river at all times; in the dry season they can reach as high as Binka, but no higher, except in insignificant numbers, inasmuch as above that point the rocks, emerging from the diminished waters, almost become barriers. Thus it may be said that the Mahanuddy is navigable from Cuttack to Chutteesghur in the rains, and from Cuttack to Binka in the dry season.

Navigation of the Mahanuddy

292. The monsoon navigation, though not absolutely barred by barriers, is in many places critically dangerous. The lesser rocks become submerged, and boats can float well over them. But the larger rocks keep their jagged fronts and sharp peaks close up to the surface in all directions; and thus cause the navigable channel to be narrow and tortuous. Thus boats are in danger of losing their way in the waters, and of being destroyed among the reefs. Then the largest rocks rear their horrid heads right above the waters, sometimes guarding and confining the navigable way; but sometimes protruding up in the midst of the channel itself. Thus a boat having swiftly glided with the full force of the current, through a passage between rocks on either side, is suddenly confronted by another rock against which the current is madly rushing. Then it is that the severest danger arises. Unless the boat can be so steered as to avoid the rocks, it must be dashed to pieces. Hardly a season passes in which some boats do not perish in this manner; though in some years the casualties are less than in others. Thus it is that the monsoon navigation, from Puddumpore to Dholepore, is more or less fraught with risk. It is only a limited number of Bentmen who, having spent their lives on the river, can undertake to conduct boats with safety. The Sonepore people are well known for their skill and courage as Steersman.

Its dangers.

293. Something has been done to lessen these dangers and obstructions by blasting the rocks in various places. The effect of such operations is always uncertain; the removal of one rock, changing the current, causes other rocks to become dangerous. And if the work were undertaken to any large extent, it would never end until the whole of the rock formations were reduced; and indefinitely vast expense were incurred. A little rock blasting might, however, be beneficially done each year, at a cost of from Rupees 5,000 to 10,000 (£ 1,000). It is also the opinion of all persons, European and Native, practically acquainted with the river that safety and convenience would be enhanced if the monsoon channel were marked by basketed poles firmly attached to the peaks of the rocks. This plan could be carried out at a small expense. The Local Authorities are confident that, by blasting the rocks in some places and marking the channel in others, the navigation and traffic on the Mahanuddy could be increased. And if permanent Navigation Works on the river be not undertaken, I should certainly recommend a small annual expenditure on the above limited objects.

Temporary improvement of the Navigable Channel.

294. But there is *no* doubt that the *only* way of making the Mahanuddy really navigable is to *construct a canal* from some point above Puddumpore to some point below Dholepore. The country has not been scientifically examined, nor has the project been matured; but both banks of the river have, of late, been visited by various Officers, some possessed of

Proposed Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy.

engineering skill, and others having much local knowledge. None have doubted the practicability of such a canal. There will be difficulties here and there, but probably no obstacles of more than ordinary magnitude. Opinions differ as yet, as to whether the best line would be found on the right bank or the left. On the left bank the main difficulty would be the crossing of the Ebe, which might be overcome by an aqueduct. On the right bank there would be high ground to cut through near the head; and after that either the Tél River would have to be crossed by an aqueduct, or else the canal would have to be conducted by means of an anicut across the Mahanuddy itself somewhere near Binka.

Its probable cost.

In either case, the canal distance would be about 150 miles, and at a rate of from Rupees 20,000 to 30,000 (£2,000 to 3,000) per mile, the cost would range from 30 to 40 lakhs of Rupees (or £300,000 to 400,000). Such a canal would pass through country for the most part cultivated or culturable; and at many points would traverse well inhabited tracts. It would, therefore, supply water for irrigation as much as could be spared. Its main purpose would, perhaps, be navigation. If it answered (as it doubtless would) the purposes both of irrigation and navigation, its income would be considerable. It would attract the entire traffic of the Districts bordering on the Mahanuddy below Sheonarain, and at least a portion of the Chutteesghur traffic beyond that point. The passenger traffic would also be considerable by the canal, which follows one of the main routes of Pilgrims to Jugernâth.

Its probable value.

295. Below Dholepore the canal would be re-united with the river, and ultimately connected with the works of the Irrigation Company in the Cuttack Delta. Were there no such works in the Delta, it would not be advisable to construct a canal along the Upper Mahanuddy; for it is certain that navigation works in the upper part of the river would not secure the interests of trade, unless the delta were also rendered passable for boats at all seasons. But as the delta is to have its canals, then the suggestion of a canal in the Upper Mahanuddy immediately presents itself as being needed to ensure a full and perfect result to the delta works: and to connect the rich country near the source of the Mahanuddy with the rich country near its mouth.

CHAPTER X.

FINANCIAL.

Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements.

296. In Chapter IX. of my last Report, the various considerations bearing on the Finances of the Central Provinces were set forth. A Form of Statement of Receipts and Disbursements has now been prescribed by the Financial Department of the Supreme Government and the remarks in the present Chapter will follow the order of that Statement. The Abstract itself, with all the items filled in by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, is given in an Appendix.

The actual Receipts.

297. The total receipts during the year 1862-63 are set down in this Statement at Rupees 84,42,274 or £844,227. There are items received during this year on account of the former year. But on the other hand, there are items on account of this year which will be actually

received during the succeeding year. So that the two sets of items will balance each other. Thus, the above sum of 84¼ lakhs of Rupees, or in round numbers £850,000, fairly represents the present Annual Income of these Provinces. This agrees generally with paragraph 346 of my last Report, wherein the Income was stated at 84¼ lakhs of Rupees or £825,000. The services from which this Income is derived are explained in the previous Chapter IV. or Revenue. The only item requiring explanation here is the Income under head of Law and Justice, amounting to Rupees 98,142, or £9,614. This arises chiefly from fines.

Income of Local Funds.

298. Under the head of Public Debt, the only item requiring notice here is that of Local Funds, amounting to Rupees 5,71,596, or £57,159. This Income arises from the Road and Ferry Funds; the Nuzool Fund being proceeds of lands and buildings, property of the State; and the Town Duties levied for purposes of Municipal Police and local improvement.

The total of Disbursements.

299. The disbursements shewn in the Statement amount to Rupees 54,22,290, or 54¼ lakhs, or £542,229.

300. Of this aggregate amount, Rupees 9,04,420, or nine lakhs, or £90,442, represent expenditure on Civil buildings and works of internal improvement and public convenience, including roads and communication. These are explained in the preceding Chapter VI., Sections 2 and 3.

301. In the same aggregate, under the headings of Allowance and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements, Allowances to District and Village Officers, Miscellaneous, Superannuation, and Retired Allowances and Gratuities for charitable and other purposes, the following are the items:—

Rupees	8,78,752	or	£87,875
,,	1,85,739	or	£18,573
The total of these will amount to Rupees	10,64,491*	or	£106,448

Cost of the regular Civil Administration.

302. These several sums being deducted from the aggregate of 54¼ lakhs, leave a sum of 34¼ lakhs, or Rupees 34,53,379, or £345,337, as the regular charge of the Civil administration for 1862-63. This agrees nearly with paragraph 352 of my last Report, in which the Civil expenditure was set down at 32½ lakhs of Rupees, or £325,000. There is thus a difference of 1¼ lakhs, which is to be accounted for by the addition of an Inspector of Jails and his Establishment, which has been sanctioned within the year; by an increase in the number of Prisoners; by the expenses of the Forest Department, which used not formerly to be

* This amount includes the total Political Expenditure of these Provinces. In my last Report, paragraph 353, the Political Expenditure was stated to be about ten lakhs. But it was pointed out, by the Supreme Government, that the purely Political Expenditure appeared to amount to only Rupees 8,50,000 or 8½ lakhs. I have, however, to explain that the ten lakhs included Items for District and Village Officers, which in these Provinces are virtually Political, and the greater part of the Superannuation and Retired Allowances which are on account of services rendered to the Native Government which preceded us, and may, therefore, be regarded as Political also. So far, then, the Statement of ten lakhs was substantially correct. The total, as now shewn, of Rupees 10,64,491, which is 64,491 in excess of ten lakhs, includes some pensions not Political in the above sense, and some Miscellaneous charges.

exhibited under charges, but was deducted from Income; and by increased expenditure on Education, and on the settlement of the Land Revenue,—which last item represents but a temporary expenditure. The Civil expenditure may thus be estimated as amounting to about 40 per cent. on the revenues.

Scale of the Civil Establishments.

303. In my last Report, paragraphs 347 and 348, I explained that all Civil Establishments had been strictly scrutinized and reduced to an uniform scale, at an aggregate saving of nearly three lakhs of Rupees, or £30,000 per annum; which was mainly owing to the amalgamation of all the various territories comprising the Central Provinces under one Administration. There has been no increase during the year in these regular Establishments; save the appointment of the Inspector of Jails and his Establishment at an annual cost of Rupees 14,760, or £1,476, a measure which will more than repay itself by the introduction of economies. The disbursements under the head of Police amount to Rupees 10,44,482, or £104,448, on account of 1862-63, which is well within the sanctioned allotment of 11¼ lakhs of Rupees, or £112,500. But then the arrear disbursements on account of former years (Rupees 1,17,291, or £11,729) bring up the total to Rupees 11,61,773, or 11½ lakhs, or £116,177. These disbursements were of a special character, arising out of the discharging of troops and levies and the re-organization of the Police. The preceding Chapter III. on Police will have shewn that the Department is working *below* its Budget, and that even further reductions are being effected. The disbursements shewn above do *not* include Rupees 1,00,996, on account of Municipal Police, which is included in the item (Rupees 9,61,769, or £96,176) of Local Funds, under the head of Public Debt, inasmuch as this section of the Police is paid for from those Funds.

Cost of new Police.

304. The only heads under which increase of expenditure is at present to be anticipated are those of Education and Land Revenue Settlement. In the preceding Chapter V. the special necessity of diffusing Education among a more than ordinarily unenlightened population was explained. And in the preceding Chapter IV. on Revenue, it was shewn how the settlement of the Land Revenue will improve the Land Tax, and subserve the best interests of the State and of the people. The only head under which decrease is to be expected is the Political, which constitutes a heavy charge. There will be a gradual diminution by reason of lapses.

Office of Deputy Auditor General.

305. During the year 1862-63, the Office of Deputy Auditor and Accountant General has been established at Nagpore, with great advantage to the general administration. It is generally considered that a Civil Pay Master is needed for these Provinces. At present the pre-audit is conducted by the Civil Pay Master at Allahabad, and this arrangement is found to involve constant delays and frequent inconvenience to the servants of Government of all classes.

The Bank of Bengal Agency.

306. Recently a Branch Agency of the Bank of Bengal has been established at Nagpore, and entrusted with all the Treasury business at the Head Quarter Station of these Provinces. The circulation of the Government Currency Notes has commenced. This Agency will prove of advantage to the public service and convenience to the trading interests.

Measures regarding the Coinage.

307. Measures have been proposed for the gradual withdrawal of the Mahratta silver coinage, commonly called the Nagpore Rupees, and for the increased circulation of the Government copper coinage.

Cost of Regular Troops in these Provinces.

308. The total cost of the troops now serving in these Provinces was set down, in paragraph 353 of my last Report, at 38 lakhs of Rupees, or £380,000. Since then one Regiment of Native Cavalry and one Regiment of Madras Native Infantry have been added, increasing the Estimate by five lakhs, and raising the total to forty-three lakhs of Rupees, or £430,000 per annum. How far this expenditure ought to be considered as debitable to the Finance of the Central Provinces is a matter for the consideration of the Supreme Government. As regards the interests of these Provinces, the case was stated in paragraph 355 of my last Report. Without doubt, a considerable portion of the troops serving within these Provinces *are* required for local defence and protection; and the cost *is* so far debitable to our Finance. A portion of the troops again can hardly be said to be so required, and appears to pertain, more properly, to the general Reserve of the Empire.

Expenditure on Public Works.

309. The Department of Public Works expenditure, exclusive of the items mentioned in the preceding paragraph 300, as pertaining to Civil Buildings and Works of internal improvement and public convenience, aggregated fifteen lakhs of Rupees, or £153,864 in 1862-63, exclusive of the Godavery Navigation Works. But for 1863-64 a sum of nine lakhs of Rupees or £90,000 will have to be added on account of the Navigation Works.

Total of Imperial expenditure in these Provinces.

310. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the current year, exclusive of Public Debt, may be stated in round number as follows:—

As per Deputy Auditor and Accountant General's Statement	lakhs	45*	or £450,000
Add on account of the Army	,,	43	or £430,000
,, on account of Department Public Works ...	,,	26	or £260,000
Total one crore fourteen lakhs ...		1,14	or £1,140,000

CHAPTER XI.

Ecclesiastical.

Visitation Tour of the Bishop of Calcutta.

311. During the year under review, it has been decided that the Nagpore Province is under the direct Ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta; and the whole of the Central Provinces are now comprised in one Diocese. The Lord Bishop of Calcutta extended his Visitation Tour over the greater part of these Provinces during the cold season of 1862-63. His Lordship visited the Stations of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Seonee, Nagpore, Baitool, and Hoshungabad; consecrated the Church and Cemetery at Jubbulpore; the new Cemetery at Seonee; the new Church and Cemeteries at Seetabuldee (Nagpore);

* Exclusive of charges under Headings E. and F. 1., which are included in the 26 lakhs for Public Works.

and inaugurated the new School at Seetabuldee for European and Eurasian children. Confirmations were held at the principal Stations.

Paucity of Chaplains.

312. There is, unfortunately, no doubt that Chaplains and Churches are very few as compared with the requirements of these Provinces. There are but four Chaplains and four Churches to ten Military, and twelve* Civil, Stations; in all twenty-two† Stations. And the disproportion is aggravated by the great distances between the various Stations, the consequence being that some outlying Districts are visited by Chaplains but seldom, and some Districts never.

* Including Deomagoodium.

† This includes Nowgong and Nagode; if Rewah be included (as it is visited by the Jubbulpore Chaplain), there would be 23.

Three new Churches ordered.

313. Within the year under review, the Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) has been completed in good architectural style: a Church has been commenced at Hoshungabad; Churches with appropriate Designs have been ordered at Chindwarra and Raepore. The erection or purchase of Parsonage houses at Hoshungabad and at Raepore has been sanctioned; and application has been made to the Additional Clergy Society for two Chaplains, one for Hoshungabad and one for Raepore. The want of separate Chaplains for the Civil Station of Seetabuldee (Nagpore) continues to be much felt.

CHAPTER XII.

POLITICAL.

The Bhonsla Family.

314. The past and present circumstances of the Bhonsla family were described in my last Report (paragraphs 364 to 371). The Political Agency for the management of this family has, within the year under review, been abolished; and the supervision over the Palace affairs, which was at first necessary, has gradually ceased. The exemption of the members of the family from the ordinary jurisdiction of the Civil Tribunals has been done away with. The Rajah of Deor and the Bhonsla family are now simply in the position of Native gentlemen of rank. They are Honorary Magistrates; they sit on Local Committees; they found Schools; and altogether set a good example to Native society at Nagpore.

Disputes between the States of Bustar and Jyepore.

315. The Bustar State was described in paragraphs 379 to 384 of my last Report. Dulgunjim Sing, the Minister of this State, and its real Controller, died in January last. The grave dispute that had long existed between the Rajah of Bustar and the Rajah of Jyepore, (the latter being under the Madras Government,) regarding the Kotepard Estate, has been settled within the year. It has been decided that Kotepard is to remain in the possession of Jyepore, but that Bustar is to receive an annual tribute. It is hoped that the two States will no longer have parties of rival combatants almost confronting each other. The Madras Government has established an effective Police within the Jyepore State. It has been agreed with the Bustar State that the British Authorities shall maintain in and about the capital town, Jugulpore, a party of Police, 40 Foot and 12 Horse.

316. In October last a complete Report by Captain Glasfurd (Deputy Commissioner of the Upper Godavery District), regarding the physical geography, the past

history, the character of the population, the resources and trade of Bustar, was submitted to the Supreme Government.

The Kalahandy State.

317. The Kalahandy State was described in paragraphs 385 to 388 of my last Report. During the past season, the excitable and superstitious Khonds within that State threatened to stop the Topographical Survey. This affair, which might easily have grown to large dimensions, was stopped by the prompt conduct of Captain Loch, Assistant Commissioner.

The Thât and Pât Rajahs.

318. The long pending dispute between the Pât and Thât Rajahs regarding the much vexed tract of Thoamool has been decided within the year. The Thât Rajah is to have possession of the tract, and the Pât Rajah is to receive seignorial dues.

Sumbulpore affairs.

319. At Sumbulpore, the ex-Rebel Leader and late Pretender to the throne has remained quietly drawing his pension. Recently Kuwal Sing, a former rebel, has been harassing the North-East frontier of that District with robberies and occasionally with murders. Some of his band had established themselves on the Bura Pahar, a well known robber fastness; but have been just expelled. Unless this man shall be killed or taken, further trouble may be expected in that quarter. It has been decided that Sumbulpore shall be permanently garrisoned by two Companies of Madras Native Infantry.

The Gurjat States.

320. The thirteen Gurjat States, dependencies of Sumbulpore, were mentioned in paragraphs 376 and 377 of my last Report. Within the past year these Chiefs have been invested with Magisterial powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. The orders were duly explained to them by myself in Durbar at Sumbulpore. They are wild and ignorant, though proud of their lineage. They have, on the whole, behaved well; except the Rajahs of Bendra, Nowaghur and Kurrier, who have evinced a contumacious spirit. The principal of all these States is that of Patna. A complete Report by Major Impey, the Deputy Commissioner, on the history and condition of Patna, which may be considered as partly illustrative of all the Gurjat States, has been submitted to the Supreme Government.

The Mukrye State.

321. The condition of Mukrye, a wild State of considerable antiquity on the extreme frontier of Hoshungabad, has been examined, and it has been recommended that the Chief be placed on the same footing as the Gurjat Chiefs.

CHAPTER XIII.

MILITARY.

Recent addition to the Nagpore Force.

322. The constitution and the strength, past and present, of the Military Forces in the Central Provinces were described in Chapter XII. of my last Report. Since that time no material change has been made, except that one Regiment of Madras Native Infantry and a full Regiment (instead of a squadron as first proposed) of Native Cavalry have been

permanently added to the Nagpore Division. It has been decided that the Station of Raepore, formerly held by a Regiment of Irregular Infantry, shall in future have a Regiment of Madras Native Infantry; and that Chanda, also formerly held by a Regiment of Irregular Infantry, shall in future have a Detachment of Madras Native Infantry from Hoshungabad. It has also been decided that Sumbulpore shall, in future, be garrisoned by two Companies of Madras Native Infantry from Cuttack. It was shown in the last Report that the Detachments at Dumoh, Nursingpore, and Baitool had been withdrawn. There are now seven Military Stations in these Provinces (exclusive of the Sanatarium of Mohtoor), among which the Troops are to be distributed as below.

Distribution of Regular Troops in the Central Provinces.

It must be borne in mind that the Stations of Chanda and Raepore have been occupied by regular Troops, for the first time, within the year under review.

323. The strength of the several Arms may be thus given :—

Military Stations.	Cavalry Regiments.		Artillery Batteries.	Infantry Regiments.		Remarks.
	European.	Native.	European.	European.	Native.	
Saugor ...	0	1	2	1	1	With Detachment at Nowgong.
Jubbulpore ...	0	0	1	1	1	With Detachment at Nusseedo.
Hoshungabad ...	0	0	0	0	1	With Detachment at Chanda.
Kamptee and Nagpore	0	1	2	1	2	
Chanda ...	0	0	0	0	0	Detachment from Hoshungabad.
Raepore ...	0	0	0	0	1	
Sumbulpore ...	0	0	0	0	0	Ditto from Cuttack.

The total amounts to about 8,079 men of all ranks. The Troops at Jubbulpore may be regarded as an Imperial Reserve. The Troops at all the other Stations are required, more or less, for the defence of the Central Provinces. It is believed that, with the distribution of Troops as above described, the Military protection of these Provinces is complete and satisfactory.

The Nagpore Arsenal.

324. The removal of the Arsenal from Seetabuldee, near Nagpore, to Kamptee, which had been previously recommended, has been again urged during the year. The measure is, without doubt, one of just Military precaution.

The Nagpore Volunteers.

325. The formation of the Nagpore Volunteers was mentioned in paragraph 409 of my last Report. Their numbers and efficiency have been maintained during the year. They have conformed to all the provisions of Act XXIII. of 1857, and have fixed a certain number of days per week for drill, the attendance at which will be compulsory under legal penalties. They have been inspected by the Brigadier Commanding the Nagpore Force, under the

General Orders issued from the Military Department of the Supreme Government. Their Commandant, Captain Bolton (Assistant Commissioner), deserves great credit for his exertions. There has been formed a Rifle Association for these Provinces, and two Meetings have been already held.

326. It has been already shown, both in the last Report and in the present, that there are now no Troops in these Provinces save those of the regular Army.

CHAPTER XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Cotton.

Agri-Horticultural Society of the Central Provinces.

327. The formation of an Agri-Horticultural Society for the Central Provinces was mentioned in paragraph 411 of my last Report. During the past year the Society has taken root, and begun to produce results. It now numbers 71 members, of whom 43 are European gentlemen, and 14 Native gentlemen. Its annual Income amounts to Rupees 3,408 or £340. Its Joint Secretaries, Captain Cobbe and Mr. Ross, have devoted considerable knowledge and experience to the affairs of the Society, and have thereby rendered service to the country at large. Its Head Quarters are in the Maharaj Garden at Nagpore, which extensive grounds are under its charge. This great garden, when complete, will cover 28 acres, and will be a nursery and depôt for trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers from all climates and countries. Among the Subscribers are the Secretaries to the Local Committees of Districts; and at the Civil Station of each District a Public Garden has been formed, for which seeds, plants and the like are obtainable from the Society at Nagpore. Seventeen gardens of this description have been established in various parts of these Provinces, and all have received seeds from Nagpore. The Society at Nagpore has obtained, or ordered quantities of, seeds from Saharunpore, Bombay and London. A trained European Gardener is on his way to Nagpore from Edinburgh: a house having been built for him in the Maharaj Garden.

Public Garden.

The growth of various products encouraged.

328. Through the agency of the Society enquiries have been made as to the best means of encouraging the growth of potatoes. There seems every hope that, if skill and intelligence be brought to bear on the subject, the potatoe in these Provinces may be indefinitely improved and extended. It is already cultivated in the Mundla Hills, and in the Chindwarra and Nursingpore Districts, and also in the northern part of Chutteesghur. It is consumed in some quantities by the people themselves. A potatoe garden has been successfully established on the Puchmurree Hill; a similar experiment will be made on the Mohtoor Hill.

329. It is intended to make experiments in the culture of tea, coffee, and cinchona on the Sautpoora Hills. Enquiries have been made regarding the culture of arrowroot at the principal Stations; and some quantities of tubers have been distributed.

330. The acclimatized Otaheite sugar-cane has been found by long experience to answer extremely well in the Jubbulpore District. It has been, therefore, determined to introduce this variety into the other sugar-growing Districts. During the past season

many cart-loads of sugar-seed and plant have been distributed among the Landholders of the Nagpore District. The result has yet to be seen.

331. At Sangor a separate Society has been formed in connexion with the great Public Garden, which is being constructed there, near the northern extremity of the Lake.

Cotton.

332. In my last Report, paragraphs 412 to 437, an account was given of the several Cotton Fields and Cotton Marts in the Central Provinces; and of the production and exportation of this important article.

Estimated Cotton Crop of the Central Provinces.

333. In the autumn of 1862, an Estimate was required from every District Officer of the Cotton crop then springing up, and of the proportion expected to be exported. This Estimate was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The Abstract may be recapitulated here, the figures being grouped under the three geographical heads into which the Cotton Fields in these Provinces are naturally divided, *viz.*, the Nagpore Country, the Nerbudda Country, and the Chutteesghur Country :—

Estimated Amount of Cotton Crop.

	lbs.	Total lbs.
The Nerbudda Country.		
Sangor	1,238,856	
Dumoh	892,300	
Hoshungabad	1,274,936	
Jubbulpore	2,107,892	
Mundla	22,140	
Nursingpore	3,228,750	
		8,704,874
The Nagpore Country.		
Chindwarra	598,600	
Baitool	5,330	
Seonee	326,000	
Nagpore } Wurdah }	31,954,908	
Bhundarra	0	
Chanda	820,000	
		33,706,838
The Chutteesghur Country.		
Raepore } Belaspore }	3,280,000	
Sumbulpore	1,640,000	
Upper Godavery	13,202	
		4,933,202
Grand Total ...		47,344,914

334. Since then, however, a further Estimate has been obtained of the actual out-turn of the crop. This unfortunately shews a result below previous expectation, owing to failure of season in various localities. On the other hand, the estimated exportation is very considerable. The Abstract of this last Estimate may be exhibited as below :—

ACTUAL OUT-TURN OF COTTON CROP.

	lbs.	Total lbs.	Exported lbs.
The Nerbudda Country.			
Saugor	966,414		
Dumoh	700,000		
Hoshungabad	1,011,840		
Jubbulpore	1,191,542		
Mundla	22,140		
Nursingpore	1,515,920	5,407,856	4,512,836
The Nagpore Country.			
Chindwarra	600,650		
Baitool	100,000		
Seonee	184,000		
Nagpore	9,860,280		
Wurdah	16,350,800		
Bhundarra			
Chanda	832,956	27,928,686	19,521,166
The Chutteesghur Country.			
Raepore	2,600,000		
Belaspore	680,000		
Sumbulpore	272,000		
Upper Godavery	13,202	3,565,202	3,068,000
Grand Total ...		36,901,744	27,102,002

Amount of probable Export of Cotton.

335. The actual out-turn, then, appears to be thirty-seven millions of lbs. The estimated exportation of twenty-seven millions of lbs., during the recent spring and summer months of 1863, is certainly greater than any thing of the kind ever known before. The aggregate export of 1861-62 was estimated at from 20 to 22 millions of lbs. By far the greater portion is now exported to Bombay: the proportion exported to Mirzapore has been much less than heretofore. There is, moreover, a quantity of 3,225,636 lbs. still awaiting export so soon as the roads shall be open after the monsoon. In the winter of 1862-63, before the exporting season sets in, Circulars were sent to all District Officers, directing them to warn the Native Traders that the news from Europe foreboded a continued dearth of cotton, and that forethought was needed to provide carriage and transit for the quantities likely to be exported from this part of India.

Statistics of Cotton Cultivation.

336. During the past season, the statistics of Cotton *Cultivation* have been collected. In all the Cotton Districts, save those of Chutteesghur, and parts of the Chanda District, the field measurement of the whole country, by the Settlement Department, has been completed. From these field measurements, and village Maps, Extracts of all the fields under Cotton Cultivation have been made. These Extracts have been compiled, and, being based on the most minute survey of every field, are the most complete statistics that can be obtained. They cannot, of course, be absolutely guaranteed against error; but they rest on the best possible basis. For the Chutteesghur Districts the information is still only estimated; and is, therefore, proportionally less reliable. The field measurement (necessarily a long process) cannot be completed in Chutteesghur till the end of next year. The general result may be thus abstracted :—

	Acres.
The Nerbudda Country	162,811
The Nagpore Country	401,052
The Chutteesghur Country	64,158
Total ...	628,021

These Statements of cultivation form a durable statistical foundation, and supply the means of checking all future Estimates of out-turn of Crop, and of supposed fluctuations in the cultivation. That the culture is still increasing is the belief of the Natives themselves. The cultivation of 1862 was said to be double that of former years; and the sowings now going on are said to be one-fourth greater than those of last year.

Sowing of Foreign Cotton-seed.

337. Last season a quantity of Egyptian Cotton-seed, supplied by the Honorary Agent of the Cotton Supply Association, was being distributed in the Wurdah Valley. But the seed was not received from Bombay until almost too late. The sowings, however, were effected, and the seed germinated in most places. Afterwards the plants fell off and languished, and the out-turn was poor. During this season quantities of acclimatized Dharwar seed, and also some Egyptian seed, have been sown, and as yet the out-turn promises to be good.

Cleaning and pressing of Cotton.

338. The propriety of setting up, on the part of Government, Machines for cleaning and pressing Cotton at the principal marts—to instruct the people—has been considered; and it has been ruled that the introduction of these appliances had better be left to private enterprise. A new Machine for cleaning Cotton has been exhibited at Nagpore, and it is probable that some of the Native traders will be induced to order on their own account some Machines both for cleaning and preparing. It is also proposed that the Local Committees should purchase some few Machines to exhibit to the people. It were, perhaps, superfluous to state that here, as elsewhere, the Natives are slow to adopt any Machinery until its benefit shall have been practically demonstrated before their eyes.

SECTION II.

Arboriculture.

The planting out of young trees.

339. Considerable efforts were made during the last rainy season (1862) by the District Officers, and by the Public Works Department, to increase the growth of trees; and many thousands

of young seedlings were planted out. There was not sufficient information then available whereon to found a complete system of Arboriculture, and in many cases the various Officers in their zeal planted more trees than they had the means of tending and watering. This has now been remedied, and a precise system is laid down. The care of every Officer is to be, *first*, the establishment of nurseries; then, *second*, the planting out of young trees in groves on the road-side or other frequented place where they can be economically watered and cared for; and *third*, the occasional planting out of avenues on specially selected sections of road. It is evident that avenue planting, though, perhaps, in some degree more ornamental, is less useful, and much more expensive and troublesome than any other kind of Arboriculture. Therefore, Officers are directed to attend to nurseries and groves before avenues, and only to adopt the latter in special cases. Tree nurseries have accordingly been established at all the seventeen Civil Stations; and at many of the Tehseel Stations, in the interior of Districts, many groves have been planted. On the main lines of road there are approximately some 200 miles in different directions which have avenues of young trees. The Police have been instructed to plant young trees near their Posts, the tending of which affords useful amusement to the men in their scanty leisure. It is calculated that the Police in these Provinces can plant and tend some 30,000 trees in a year. Already they have planted many thousands. The Teak tree nurseries, which it is proposed to establish in the Hills, are mentioned under the Head of Forests.

System of Arboriculture prescribed.

Its present and future results.

SECTION III.

European Colonization and Waste Lands.

340. The localities where Waste Lands may be found in these Provinces, and the various considerations bearing upon them, were mentioned in my last Report, paragraphs 441 to 451. During the year under review, the Rules for the sale of Waste Lands, on the principles laid down by the Secretary of State and the Government of India, have been published. In these Rules the most noticeable feature is this, that, in those Districts which are wild, jungly, remote, or insalubrious, the maximum limit for each grant is higher, and the rate of price per acre lower, than in those Districts which are free from the above disadvantages. It is hoped that, in this way, capital and enterprise may be attracted to those localities where their application is most needed, and that special inducement may be offered to Europeans to become the Pioneers of improvement in the wilderness.

Rules for the sale of Waste Lands.

341. The maximum limits, then, of the quantity of land which will be sold in one lot in the several Districts, are as follows:—

Maximum limits of lots.

In the Districts of—

Raepore,
Belaspore,
Sumbulpore,
Mundla,
Upper Godavery,
Hoshungabad,

} (5,000) five thousand acres.

In the Districts of—

Nagpore,
Chanda,
Bhundara,
Wurda,
Jubbulpore,
Nursingpore,
Chindwarra,
Seonee,
Saugor,
Baitool,
Dumoh,

} (3,000) three thousand acres.

342. The upset price of the lands to be sold will, ordinarily, be as follows:—

Rates of upset price.

I.—In the Raepore, Belaspore and Mundla Districts eight annas (one shilling) per acre.

II.—In the Sumbulpore and Upper Godavery Districts, one Rupee (two shillings) per acre.

III.—In the Hoshungabad, Nagpore, Chanda, Bhundara, Wurda, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Chindwarra, Seonee, Saugor, Baitool and Dumoh Districts, two Rupees and eight annas (five shillings) per acre.

343. On payment of one-tenth of the purchase money, and of the expenses of survey, demarcation, advertisement and sale, the purchaser will receive a Deed, signed by the Deputy Commissioner, conveying to him the lot in full hereditary and transferable proprietary right, free from all demand on account of Land Revenue for ever, but subject, nevertheless, to all general taxes and local rates imposed by Law or by the Local Government. There is no prohibition against the same person applying for two or more lots of land, provided that each application contains no more than the maximum of acres prescribed for the District or locality on which the said lots are situate. Every lot must be compact, and shall not include more than one tract of land in a ring-fence. Reserves of grazing land and forests; of land for the growth of firewood near Towns and Stations; of building sites, parks, recreation grounds; of tracts possessing mineral wealth, stone quarries and the like; and of land required for other special purposes, are not to be sold under these Rules without the express sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

Conditions of Sale.

344. The Supreme Government have, on special grounds, authorized the sale (under the general conditions of the above Rules) to Mr. Meik of sixteen thousand acres as a compact lot in one ring-fence, at the rate of four annas (six pence) per acre, in the tract known by the name of Sonekan belonging to the Belaspore District. The arrangements for giving effect to this are not complete, and the sale has not yet been actually made. I have, during the past season, myself examined this tract in company with the District Officer and the Assistant Superintendent of Forests. It is a Valley about twelve miles in length and three miles in mean breadth, permeated by the Jonk River shortly above its confluence with the Mahanuddy. The direction of the Valley is from south to north. On the west and the east side there are Hills running parallel to each other. The Hills on the east side have some Teak Forest and other useful trees. In the southern end of the Valley

Proposed sale of land in the Sonekan District.

there is a Saul Forest of inferior growth. The Valley was once partially inhabited and cultivated, and belonged to a Zemindar named Narain Sing. He bore an evil repute from desperate and bloody deeds. In 1857 he rebelled; and was afterwards attacked, captured and executed. The Valley has been since deserted and left waste; the ruins of the houses, tanks and mangoe groves of Narain Sing alone remain amidst the brushwood which has overgrown the place. The property has been confiscated. The locality is regarded with a sort of superstition by the Natives of the neighbourhood. Various efforts to induce landholders to take charge of the property have failed; the last lessee, who took it on condition of paying Rupees 50 (£5) a year to Government, abandoned the lease. There is some very good ground here and there; but much of the soil is of second rate quality. The culturable soil has been estimated at 34,100 acres. The climate is, on the whole, moist and cool, but at certain seasons very insalubrious. Of labor there would be none on the spot; but a certain quantity could, doubtless, be obtained from the Chutteesghur Plains, which are within a distance of 20 miles; and in the event of valuable or surplus produce being raised, then Sheonarain, the Head of the Monsoon Navigation of the Mahanuddy, is only fifteen miles distant. The forest lands would be reserved or disposed of under special conditions. On the whole, it may be said that, although the tract possesses several prospective advantages, yet it has serious drawbacks also.

SECTION IV.

Mineral Resources.

345. In my last Report, paragraphs 460 to 478, a description was given of the mineral resources of these Provinces.

Iron Mines.

346. During the year now under review, I have myself visited the Iron Mines of Tendoo Khera, near the north bank of the Nerbudda, (mentioned in paragraph 470 of the last Report,) and can testify to the highly promising character of the locality. The ore is obtained by superficial excavations of the earth. Its quality is very good. The locality falls within the limit of the Charter of the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company.

Nerbudda Coal Mines.

347. I have also been able to visit the Coal Mines belonging to the same Company at Mopaull, on the south bank of the Nerbudda, distant about 30 miles from the Tendoo Khera Iron Mines above-mentioned. I entered two long passages excavated on the side of the Hill. The Coal appeared to be good, and its supply to be very considerable. These Mines were mentioned in paragraph 478 of my last Report.

Coal near Oomrait.

348. In the same paragraph was mentioned the Coal at Oomrait, near Mohtoor. I have visited this Mine in Company with the Reverend Mr. Hislop, who was one of the first to bring the place to notice. It has been worked by Mr. Stanbrough with some success. The section now laid bare affords promise of a much larger supply than was previously anticipated. At the time of my last Report, the thickness of the seam was supposed to be one foot, but this has now been discovered to be 4½ feet, half of which consists of good Coking Coal; and although, as previously stated, the place is somewhat removed from the main course of traffic, yet, if the Mine should prove really valuable, the construction of a good road would bring the Coal, by ninety miles of easy transit, to Nagpore.

SECTION V.

SURVEY.

349. The existing means of obtaining geographical and topographical information in these Provinces were explained in paragraphs 479 to 481 of my last Report.

Progress of the Revenue Survey.

350. During the past year now under review, strenuous effort has been made by the Surveyor General's Department to advance the Revenue Survey in various Districts. One Survey party under Captain Vanrenen has been engaged in the Saugor District; another under Lieutenant Sconce in the Nursingpore and Hoshungabad District; another under Captain Grant in the Bhundara District. The country surveyed by these parties, village by village, during the season of 1862-63, amounts to upwards of 8,000 square miles. It is intended that the Survey of the Dumoh District shall be proceeded with by the party now in Saugor; that the Hoshungabad Survey be advanced by the party now there; that the Survey of the Chutteesghur Plateau be commenced by the party now in Bhundara; and that the Chanda Survey be commenced by Major Johnston's party to be transferred from the Punjab. By these means, in the course of two years hence, all the cultivated and inhabited tracts of the Central Provinces will have been surveyed, village by village, in a manner the same as that of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab.

Topographical Surveys.

351. There will still, however, remain a vast area of wild, hilly and jungly, but partly cultivated and partly inhabited, country to be surveyed topographically. Such area can be only stated approximately, but it probably will not be found to fall far short of 100,000 square miles. With this, also, some progress is being made. The Topographical Survey under Major Saxton, advancing from the direction of Cuttack, has, during the past season, been at work in the hilly and savage country of the southern Dependencies of Sumbulpore. It is hoped that the Topographical Survey working in the Ranchee and Huzareebagh Countries, will ultimately take up the tracts that lie on the eastern frontier of Mundla and the northern frontier of Chutteesghur. It is also expected that the Topographical Survey in the Hyderabad Territories will be able to cross the Godavery, and take up the unsurveyed tracts on the British side of the river.

352. On the whole, it may be said that the Survey arrangements for these Provinces, as agreed to by the Surveyor General and sanctioned by the Supreme Government, are complete and satisfactory.

Map of the Bustar Country.

353. Captain Glasfurd's Sketch Map of the Bustar Country, which teems with information hitherto unknown, has been submitted to Government, and is being printed in the Surveyor General's Office.

354. I have only to add that the progress of the various Surveys is a matter of moment, and that the absence of Topographical information in many parts of these Provinces constitutes a real administrative difficulty, and a positive hinderance to improvement. This administration is, however, under great obligation to the Surveyor General, Colonel H. L. Thuillier, for the cordial manner in which he has responded to our solicitations for Survey parties.

SECTION VI.

Fairs.

Encouragement of Fairs.

355. In paragraph 482 of my last Report, the peculiar advantages were explained of encouraging Fairs in these Provinces for the interchange of products and for the gradual civilising of wild tribes by intercourse with other men. Special instructions were circulated among the District Officers to promote existing Fairs, and to establish new ones, as much as possible. This has been done to a considerable extent, and some new Fairs have been established. The following are the places where Fairs are now known to be held:

356. In the Saugor Territory one Fair is held at Saugor itself; one at Korae called the Fair of Birmachurree, and one at Kimlassa on the frontier.

In the Valley of the Nerbudda, Fairs are held at the marble rocks near Jubbulpore; at Burmanghat, a spot on the river bank of great sanctity, near Nursingpore; at Nursingpore itself, and at Hoshungabad. In the Hill Districts, a Fair is held at Mooltye, the source of the Taptee; at Purtapore, the source of Wyn Gunga; at Choupara, on the same river; at the cave and sacred spring on the Puchmurree Hill; at Hirdanuggur in the Mundla Hills. In the Nagpore Country there are Fairs at the sacred Hill of Ramteake; at Arvee, the Cotton Mart near the Wurda; at Chanda, near the same river; at a sacred spot on the Wyn Gunga near Bhundara. In the Chutteesghur Country there is a complete circle of Fairs; at Droog, on the Sheonath River; at Nerbudda, a sacred spring north of Khyraghur; at Sheonarain, near the confluence of the Sheonath and the Mahanuddy; and at Rajum, on the south of Raepore. On the banks of the Mahanuddy there is the annual Fair at Sumbulpore; and, on the Godavery, there is the Fair at Kaleshwur, where the waters of the Godavery and the Pranheets meet. There are fifty-four Fairs in all held annually in these Provinces.

SECTION VII.

Carriage and Labor.

357. In my last Report, paragraphs 483 to 487, there were mentioned the measures in progress for the prevention of forced labor, and the substitution of a free system. Since then the abolition of forced labor, and the unlawfulness of pressing, have been notified by Proclamation in every District of these Provinces. The strictest injunctions are laid upon the Civil Authorities and the Police to ensure the Law being obeyed. That the prohibition is always effectual, or that forcing never takes place, is more than can be affirmed or expected. But certainly the evil has been much mitigated, and the people are now thoroughly aware that the forcing of labor or carriage is contrary to the intentions of Government.

The forcing for Labor and Carriage prohibited.

358. Endeavour has also been made to ensure a free provision of local resources and supply of labor and carriage. At every Station, Labor Agents, for the furnishing of bearers and laborers and carriage, have established themselves under the countenance of the District Authorities. They charge a small commission on all they supply, which is paid by the party employing the labor. The price of labor thus supplied is regulated, of course, by the current market rates. As yet, however, these Labor Agents have *not* generally succeeded

The Labor Agents.

in furnishing a sufficient supply of labor, and do not afford satisfaction to travellers. They are strictly prohibited from using force in any way, though whether they always attend to that prohibition is doubtful. Thus the difficulty in obtaining labor and carriage is not yet removed. The fact appears to be that, in the present circumstances of the country, the service with travellers is not so remunerative to, or popular among, the laboring classes as the various other kinds of employment now open to them. Be this as it may, however, the first duty of the administration is to prevent force and oppression, and to place every thing upon a free and legitimate footing. Let that be done once for all, and matters will gradually right themselves without any interference from authority. In the meantime, the Civil Authorities and the Police are instructed to render every aid, which they *legitimately* can to travellers; and to be courteous and considerate in affording information to strangers.

SECTION VIII.

Population.

Former Estimate of the Population.

359. In paragraph 488 of my last Report, it was stated that there were objections to the taking of a formal census in these Provinces. Those objections continue to exist. The population was supposed to be something under nine millions, or between eight and nine millions. This is, however, nothing more than an Estimate which cannot, as yet, be thoroughly checked. For almost all these Provinces, however, except Chutteesghur, that is to say generally for the Saugor and Nerbudda country and the country of Nagpore Proper, there are the Returns of the Settlement Department. These Returns shew all the houses enumerated in all towns and villages. This enumeration is supported by detailed Maps of the town or village, shewing every house and enclosure with its serial number. The result, therefore, should be reliable. Thus a sound basis is attained for estimating the population by assuming averages of persons to a house. This has been carefully done after consulting the Local Officers for the Districts of the Saugor, the Jubbulpore and the Nagpore Commissionerships or Divisions. The averages range in the several Districts and Tracts from three to five persons per house. The general average is about four persons. The result is subjoined :—

Improved Returns for a large portion of these Provinces.

Divisions.	Towns above 5,000 souls.	Villages.	Total.	No. of houses.	No. of souls.	General average of souls per house.
Saugor ...	7	4,998	4,405	303,617	1,299,660	4
Jubbulpore ...	6	8,721	8,727	362,701	1,451,898	4
Nagpore ...	23	6,694	6,717	549,466	2,232,631	4
Total ...	36	20,353	20,389	1,235,874	4,984,129	12

Population of the principal Towns.

360. The following is a List of Towns in the foregoing Divisions having a population of above 8,000 souls :—

		Population.			Population.	
In the Saugor Division.	Saugor ...	... 50,584	In the Nagpore Division.	Nagpore ...	... 1,34,155	
	Gurhakota	... 10,220		Kamptee ..	... 65,068	
	Hoshungabad	... 8,816		Ramtek ...	... 12,696	
In the Jubbulpore Division.	Jubbulpore	... 53,208		Oomzair ...	... 17,040	
	Mundla ...	.. 8,575		Khapapet	... 9,116	
	Nursingpore	.. 14,100		Bhundara	... 16,440	
	Seonee ...	... 9,800		Toomsur...	... 8,263	
	Chindwarra	... 7,032		Sahunguree	... 8,140	
				Pownee ...	... 19,476	
				Chanda ...	... 19,009	
				Hingun Ghaut	... 7,865	Cotton Marts.
				Arvee ...	... 6,903	Cotton Marts.
				Deolee ...	... 5,624	Cotton Marts.

361. It is to be remembered, of course, that the figures by no means represent the whole population of the Central Provinces, as they do not include the Chutteesghur Division comprising the Districts of Raepore, Belaspore, the Chutteesghur Zemindarees Sumbulpore, the Gurjat States, and the Bustar State, for all which Districts there are not the means of forming any trustworthy estimate. Such means will, however, be gradually afforded in the Chutteesghur Districts as the Settlement progresses.

Average density of the population in certain Districts.

362. In those Districts for which population Returns can be given, as above-mentioned, in three only have the total areas been ascertained by the professional Survey, namely, Nagpore, Wurda and Jubbulpore. In these Districts the average density per square of estimated population may be thus seen :—

Nagpore and Wurda	 151	persons per square mile.
Jubbulpore	 102	„ „

SECTION IX.

Trade Statistics.

Mode of obtaining Returns of traffic.

363. In paragraph 489 of my last Report, it was stated that arrangements were being made for the collection of the statistics of trade and traffic in all the Towns and Cities, and on the main lines of road in these Provinces. Accordingly, during the past traffic season, that is from October 1862 to June 1863, Native writers have been posted in every District at selected points, on all main thoroughfares, to note down all the traffic that passed. These operations have been conducted with more or less efficiency throughout the country, and a mass of statistics is pouring into the Central Office, where every thing will have to be examined, tested by comparison and collated. This compilation will necessarily be a work of some little time. That the result of this, the first year's work, will be correct, or even nearly correct, is hardly to be hoped for. But the errors which will be discovered will serve for future guidance; and something like a foundation for accurate statistics will be gained. It is intended to repeat the same process during the following year; and thus ultimately a true and comprehensive Return will be obtained for the trade of the Central Provinces.

The collation of Trade Statistics.

SECTION X.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

New Dispensaries established.

364. In paragraphs 491 to 495 of my last Report a sketch of the Charitable Hospitals and Dispensaries was given. Within the year now under review seven new institutions have been opened, namely, those at the Nagpore City, at Seonee, Baitool, Hoshungabad, Mundla, Mohtoor, and Dumoh. Four new Hospital buildings have been erected within the past year. The best of these are the spacious and commodious Hospitals in the Nagpore City and at Seonee. Two additional Dispensaries have recently been ordered: one in the Seetabuldee Bazar, which is quite a town of itself, and an additional one in the City of Nagpore. The Nagpore City Hospital, recently opened, is proving successful, and attracts about a thousand patients a month. In accordance with the advice of the principal inhabitants, another institution will be opened. Including those previously existing and those now being provided, there will be four of these institutions in and about Nagpore.

General results of these Institutions.

365. There are now twenty-one of these institutions, Hospitals and Dispensaries, in the Central Provinces; and it is possible that several branch institutions may yet be added. The number of patients treated during 1861-62 was 32,032, and during 1862-63 42,171, shewing an increase of 9,239 or 28 per cent. during the past year. There was an increase of attendance at almost every institution. Of the 42,171, there were 38,838 out-door patients, that is those who attended and received medical treatment or medicines, and the remainder 3,333 were in-door patients, severe cases treated in-doors, the patients being accommodated in the building. Of the total number, again, 33,767 were males, and 8,404 females. The number of capital operations performed within the year amounted to 213. The annual cost of these institutions in 1862 amounted to Rupees 25,476, or £2,547; of which Rupees 5,444 or £544 were defrayed by private subscriptions, and the remainder by the State. The aggregate expenditure will fall at the rate of 9¾ annas, or £0 1s. 2½d. per patient.

Dispensary Committees.

366. Each of these institutions has been placed under the management of a Committee, consisting of the Civil Officers at the Station and some of the principal Native inhabitants. Endeavours are made to raise private subscriptions, and to arouse the interest and sympathy of the upper and middle classes of the Natives themselves in this wide-spread and comprehensive charity, which is gratefully appreciated by the poorer classes, and is calculated to impart some impulse to civilization among an unenlightened population.

Small-pox and Vaccination.

367. Though here, as elsewhere, the small-pox spreads its ravages, and gathers in its harvest of death, it cannot be said that as yet in these Provinces vaccination has been either systematic or successful. A scheme is being prepared which will, it is hoped, secure a more complete result during the coming season. In the mean time vaccination in a sort of way is carried on. During 1862 some 7,020 cases were vaccinated, out of which 5,594 were reported successful.

368. There has heretofore been no Asylum for lunatics in these Provinces. The want of such an institution has long been felt at Nagpore, where it has been necessary to confine the lunatics in the Common Jail, there being no suitable Asylum nearer than Benares. Recently, however, at Nagpore some vacant buildings with garden grounds have been appropriated for this purpose, and are being fitted up at a cost of Rupees 4,000, or £400, for the reception of some forty or fifty lunatics. It will be necessary to establish a similar institution at either Saugor or Jubbulpore, as soon as resources shall be available.

Lunatic Asylum at Nagpore.

369. All these institutions, Hospitals and Dispensaries, and the operations connected therewith, have been placed under the general inspection of the Officer who inspects the Jails. It is hoped that, by these means, an uniform and progressive system of management may be introduced.

Inspection of Dispensaries.

SECTION XI.

Improvement of the Breed of Horned Cattle and Sheep.

370. A communication from the Commissariat Commission sitting at Calcutta was received in the early part of the year, requesting information on the subject of the alleged decrease of the stock of horned cattle and sheep in the country. A general enquiry was thereupon made through the Local Officers. Their reports tended to confirm the allegation in regard to the stock in the country being on the decrease. Various causes were assigned, prominently disease and bad seasons, but none quite satisfactory or convincing. Measures were then adopted to conserve, so far as might be possible, the stock which remained. Each Local Committee was instructed to lay out funds in the importation of superior bulls; and in order to encourage graziers, District Officers were enjoined to permit them to pasture their sheep on unappropriated waste lands on payment of nominal fees, and further to give prizes for the best flocks at the district fairs. These measures have been generally adopted, and some results may be hoped for. But the subject is one in which, probably, improvement can be best effected by the growth of enterprise and understanding among the people themselves.

Alleged falling off in stock of horned Cattle and Sheep.

Measures adopted for improving the breed.

SECTION XII.

Forests.

371. In Section III., Chapter XIII. of my last Report, the Forests of these Provinces were mentioned in general terms. I then touched on the past history of the principal of those Forests, which history consists, unfortunately, of the annals of their decline and fall. It is sufficient to state, in recapitulation, that all the best Forests have been wastefully ravaged by timber dealers for the supply of the large Cities and Stations in Central India. The Forests of the Central Nagpore country have been exhausted for Nagpore and Kamptee; those of the Godavery for Hyderabad; those of

Past exhaustion of the Forests.

the Mahanuddy for Cuttack; those of the Western Sautpoora Hills for Indore and Oojein; those of the Eastern Sautpoora or Meikul Hills for Jubbulpore. Then there has been the gradual wastage caused for centuries by the barbarous agriculture of the Hill tribes. Much of the mischief in the past is irreparable; but care and vigilance in the present is needed, in order that there may be remedy in the future. It is now necessary that I should refer briefly to—*firstly*, the present state of the Forests; *secondly*, the uses for which timber is required; *thirdly*, the measures for ensuring a continuance of supply for the future.

The Teak Tree.

372. Firstly, then in regard to the present state and uses of the Forests. Here, as elsewhere, the prince of trees is the teak. It is provided by nature in most parts of these Provinces: and its Forests have yielded first-rate logs in vast numbers difficult of calculation. The Superintendent of Forests supposes that within the last century a million of such logs must have been provided. But no conjecture can be hazarded as to the enormous number of undersized logs recklessly taken. This timber is prized by the people in these Provinces to a degree that would not readily be imagined. It is durable throughout ages; it combines lightness with strength; it is proof against destructive insects and dry rot above ground; it never rots under ground; it floats perfectly and can be conveyed by mountain torrents from the place of its growth to the place of its consumption; it does not require long seasoning; it never warps nor cracks, not even in the alternations of humid exhalations and burning winds; it can be easily sawn;

Its qualities.

it possesses a marvellous fitness for carving, even of the most refined and elaborate kind. At certain seasons it displays an external splendor and glory equal to its intrinsic merits. In the eyes of the Forester and the Dealer, all the virtues of which timber is capable are united in the teak. It is sought for by all classes, from the Mahratta Prince who erects his Palace in the Plains, to the Gond savage who builds his hut in the Hills.

Preservation of young trees.

373. Now-a-days, however, teak logs of large girth are scarce every where; and in many districts unobtainable. A few good logs may be occasionally obtained at some places south of the Nerbudda. *In our Forest only* are there now fine teak trees in any number worth counting; that Forest is at Ahiree near the confluence of the Wyn Gunga and the Godavery, where there are some 15,000 trees. This Forest and the scattered remnants of the once splendid Forests in other Districts are now cared for. There is, however, young teak springing up and growing in all directions, and in numbers beyond estimation. The prohibition which has now been in force for two or three years against the cutting of young teak has proved efficacious even beyond expectation. I can myself testify to this from personal observation in many districts. The manner in which the Hill people have obeyed the prohibition, despite what must be to them an alluring temptation, redounds to their credit. Much of the teak will be undersized, but still of great use for the domestic architecture of the people. And in the course of five or six years the young Forests must be thinned; and thus quantities of small teak wood will become available to the great satisfaction of the multitude. In the course of twenty or twenty-five years there will be quantities of middle sized teak to stimulate the timber trade.

But the first rate teak trees that once adorned these Provinces will not be seen again by the present, and hardly even by the next, generation. If conservation, however, shall be perseveringly maintained for sixty years, then the Teak Forests of Central India may be reproduced.

The Saul Tree.

374. The tree of next importance is the Saul (Shorea or Vatica Robusta). Its Forests are very extensive within the limits of these Provinces; but they are collected, as it were, within one mighty belt. This belt commences in the plateau beneath the Kymore Range in the Rewa country, near the left bank of the Soane. Stretching southwards it spreads all over the Mundla Hills, and clothes with wood and foliage the Hill sides of Umurkuntuk, the source of the Nerbudda. Then continuing in a south-east direction, it fringes the northern frontier of Chutteesghur, and covers the Hills of all the Districts of the Mahanuddy and its affluents, down to the Eastern Ghauts. Then striking across the Gurjat country, it approaches the source of the Mahanuddy, and proceeds on to the Valley of the Indrawutty and the Hills south of that river. And there at length it

Its Forests.

stops, having expanded luxuriantly over a length of seven or eight hundred miles. The tree does not appear on the banks of the Godavery in any appreciable abundance. The enormous area thus covered with Saul Forest does not always or even generally bear fine trees. Much of the Forest is poor and scrubby. But there are fine trees clustering thick in vast numbers through all the valleys which are deeply embosomed among the Hills. Besides this great belt, there are no Saul Forests of consequence in these Provinces, with one remarkable exception. Separated far away from the line of Saul country, there is a beautiful Forest of these trees, literally nestling in the lap of the Puchmurree Hills. All these Saul Forests have not as yet been ravaged save in a few places, and have nowhere been exhausted. From this description the practical deduction is, that our Saul resources are vast, but are unfortunately situated too far to the Eastward, as regards the convenience of the great stations and roads of the Central Provinces, with one exception. At the northern extremity of the Saul belt, the Forest of Bijeeragooghur can be made use of for the Allahabad and Jubbulpore Railway; at all other points there is a long distance to be laboriously traversed by land carriage, between the side of the Forests and the places in the heart of these Provinces where the timber is wanted. This circumstance detracts much from the value of the Forests as concerning the interests of Nagpore and Jubbulpore, and of the Railways leading thereto. But as respects the interests of Eastern Nagpore, the case is happily different. In those regions the water carriage of the Mahanuddy and its tributaries is available. The day may be anticipated when immense consignments of Saul timber shall be floated down these rivers to be used in works of improvement in the Coast Districts, or to be exported by Canal or by Sea.

The merits and demerits of Saul Timber.

375. In strength and durability the Saul is equal to the teak, but deficient in many of those excellent qualities which the teak possesses. The Saul is so full of sap that it cannot be thoroughly seasoned in less than ten years, though by immersion in water it may be partially seasoned in five years. Until the wood is seasoned it is too heavy to float. It is hard, full of resin, and difficult to be sawn. If sawn before having been well

seasoned it is apt to split and to warp. Under all circumstances it is heavy, and, therefore, expensive in transit. Still it is, on the whole, a valuable wood, and at this time it constitutes the only supply of first rate timber which we have to fall back upon. It may hereafter be used for Railway sleepers, but owing to the long time required for seasoning, this resource cannot come into play for the next ten years.

The Saj Tree.

376. Next in importance is the tree called Saj or Eyne, (Pentaptera tomentosa terminatia); inasmuch as the Teak timber is exhausted, and the Saul timber is not yet fit for use, it happens that the Saj timber is that which is chiefly used for public works in these Provinces. The Saj Forests have no marked limits of their own. The trees are to be found, more or less, all over the Hills and Vallies of these Provinces. They are found, however, in the greatest abundance along the southern face of the Sautpoora Hills, north of nagpore, from the Valley of the Wurda on the west to the Lanjee Hills near the Frontier of Chutteesghur on the east. The peculiar advantage of the Saj is that it is the *only* tree which grows every where. The Saj has much the same merits and defects as the Saul; but is inferior to the Saul, as being coarse in grain, less capable of bearing exposure to the weather, and less secure against rotting under-ground. But if protected from damp, it is a good and serviceable wood, especially for the interior of buildings. On the other hand, it has one advantage over the Saul, as being less full of sap, and, therefore, requiring less time for seasoning. Its wood can be seasoned in three or four years, and, therefore, comes speedily into use. It is largely used, and supplies most of the sleepers and fencing posts for the Railways to Nagpore and Jubbulpore. Within the last three years about a quarter of a million of Saj trees have been felled in the Forests of the Sautpoora Range for these purposes.

Its qualities.

The Kowa Tree.

377. Almost equal to the Saj in importance is the kindred *Kowa* (Terminatia arjuna). It is found in almost all the Districts of these Provinces. It loves the banks of Hill streams and great rivers, and will thrive nowhere else. In outward appearance it is the most picturesque of all the timber trees in these Provinces. Its bark is silvery white; its leaves are grey and sombre, like the foliage of the Olive; its trunk is massive; its branches are wide-spreading and pendant, whether standing majestically alongside the blue reaches of the Nerbudda near Mundla, or overshadowing the Towa River near Baitool, or fringing the Denwa River right beneath the sandstone precipices of the Puchmurree Hills, or crowning, with rich masses, the steep banks of the Mahanuddy; the Kowa tree cannot fail to impress itself on the memory of the Spectator. Its wood has most of the merits and demerits of the Saj; in one respect, perhaps, it is inferior to the Saj, as being even still harder. It has been used but little as yet for Railway sleepers. But as the Saj becomes comparatively exhausted the Kowa will come into play.

Places of its growth.

The Hurdoo and the Keim Trees.

378. There are two kindred trees growing, more or less, everywhere, and especially towards the Western portions of the Sautpoora Range, namely the Hurdoo and the Keim (Nauclea condifolia

and Nauclea parvifolia). Their timber is light, easily worked, and tolerably durable; but has not the strength of the timbers previously described. It is possible that they may supply sleepers.

The other useful woods are —

Beejee Saul, (Pterocarpus marsupium).
Dhaora, (Conocarpus latifolia).
Lendya, (Lagerstroemia lanceolata).
Tendoo, (Ebony), (Dyospyrus melanoxylon).
Rohnee, (Soymida febrifuga).
Tuisa, (Dalbergia ojeiniensis).
Ronnja, (Acacia leucoploea).

Other useful trees.

These also are found, more or less, everywhere. They are useful for common house building, furniture, agriculture, and country carriage, and are, therefore, of great value to the people at large. The Unjun is found in some places, but its wood is said to be brittle. There is a magnificent Bamboo jungle near the point where the Wyn Gunga debouches from the Sautpoora Range, and also in the Lanjee Hills. The common useful Baboul tree (Acacia Arabica) is met with everywhere. None of the woods mentioned in this paragraph are fit for Railway sleepers, or other public works.

Measures for preserving the Forest.

380. Such being the present condition and uses of the Forests, I will now explain briefly the arrangements for preserving them. It was at first proposed to place restrictions upon nearly all the trees that have been mentioned. But it was found that such a measure, if enforced, would distress the people and even raise discontent. It was, therefore, decided to leave free from restriction of any kind all trees save the Teak, Saul, Saj, and Kowa. The cutting of Teak of all sizes is absolutely prohibited, save by express and specific permission. The cutting of Saul, Saj and Kowa, above a certain girth, is allowed; but below that girth it is prohibited. These arrangements are provisional, pending the ultimate sanction of the Supreme Government. For the present they prove certainly satisfactory to the people; and appear to sufficiently protect the public interest. The general enforcement of the Rules is for the present left to the Civil Authorities, under the inspection and control of the Forest Department. Certain of the best Forests are to be marked off as reserved tracts to be under the immediate management of the Forest Officers. The cost of all Establishments for watching the Forests, including the Superintendent of Forests and his Assistants and all contingencies, amounts to Rupees 60,000 or £6,000 per annum. This charge is more than covered by the revenue derived from the Royalty charged on every log of wood of the specified kinds, namely, Teak, Saul, Saj and Kowa,—the total income being somewhat above the expenditure. It may be mentioned also that Nurseries for Teak trees have been commenced at favorable spots in these Provinces, and that in the Agri-Horticultural Garden at Nagpore there are now about 1,000 young Teak plants in a thriving condition.

Forests in the jurisdiction of Chiefs.

381. Many Forests are within the jurisdiction of Rajas under political control, of Chiefs, and of large Zemindars. It is proposed that these also should be under the same Rules as all other Forests; the Chiefs receiving the Royalty and maintaining the Establishment. Definite arrangements have been already made to the above effect with some of the Chiefs.

The Dhuya cultivation.

382. One great cause of wastage and destruction of the Forests is what is called "Dhuya" cultivation. Much was said and written on this peculiar cultivation; and some have supposed that it ought to be stopped altogether. It may, therefore, be desirable that I should explain the matter. This "Dhuya" cultivation is practically a substitute for ploughing and a device for saving the trouble of that operation. It is resorted to by Hill people who are averse to labor and have little or no agricultural capital. The method is in this wise: A piece of ground on a moderate slope is selected, clothed with trees, brushwood and grass; the trees are cut down in November, the brushwood and grass are set fire to in May, the charred ground is left covered with ashes; in the beginning of June quantities of seed are placed at the upper end of the slope; the rains descending wash the seed over and into the prepared ground; no ploughing or any other operation is resorted to. There springs up a plentiful crop, which has to be watched all day and night till it is cut. If not so watched, it would be eaten up by wild animals. In this manner all the pulses are raised. Besides this culture, there will be a few fields, around the homesteads, regularly ploughed, and growing superior products. The pulses, however, form the staple food of the Hill people in four Districts,* and in many parts of Districts adjacent to them. The population dependent mainly on Dhuya cultivation is between one and two millions. Now it is unfortunate that the best ground for this peculiar cultivation is precisely that where the finest timber trees like to grow. The damage thus done during ages is incalculable; but to stop this cultivation *now* would be a serious, indeed a lamentable, undertaking. It may be hoped that by degrees these Hill people will learn a better mode of cultivation. But to prohibit the Dhuya cultivation altogether would be to drive this widely scattered population to despair. Though rude and ignorant, they are not destitute of spirit and endurance; they have Clans and Chiefs; they are always predatory; and they have on occasions shewn themselves capable of armed resistance. If, by a prohibition of their favorite culture, they were reduced to any distress, they would resort to plunder, and especially to cattle stealing. And it is to be remembered that the great pasturage, whither the cattle from the Plain Districts resort, is situated in their country. Perhaps even they might resort to a sort of rebellion. And if they fled the country, the last state of the Forests would be worse than the first. For then the traces of human habitation, settlement and clearance, would disappear. The Foresters and the Wood-men could no longer live in, or even enter into, the wilderness, rank and malarious with uncleared jungle, and overrun with wild beasts. These animals are already so destructive as to constitute a real difficulty. The only check upon their becoming masters of the Forests is the presence of the Hill tribes; inasmuch then as the entire prohibition of Dhuya is out of the question

* Mandla.
Seonee.
Chhindwara.
Baitool.

The best mode of dealing it.

the problem is how to check its extension without distressing the Hill people? It is possible to keep the culture within certain limits,—to prevent new ground being taken up by it and to restrict it to those spots where it has previously existed. In this manner further damage can be prevented. And it is to *this* object alone that our present efforts are directed.

Exploration of the Forests.

383. The general exploration of the Forests in these Provinces is now complete, with a few exceptions. The Forests of the Nerbudda country were explored in 1860 and 1861 by Captain Pearson; those of Southern Nagpore by Lieutenant Stewart in 1862; and those of Eastern Nagpore and the Mahanuddy by Lieutenant Forsyth and Captain Burton in 1863. The services of the Forest Officers will be mentioned at the conclusion of this Report. These Provinces have had the benefit of a visit from Doctor Brandis, Conservator of Forests in British Burmah, who gave many valuable suggestions.

Future prospects of Timber.

384. The future prospects of timber may be thus summed up. At present the great drain is from the Saj Forests for sleepers and public works. Those trees are being fast used up; but their entire exhaustion will not be permitted,—enough will be left for reproduction. After the Saj the stress will fall upon the Kowa Forests, which will be made use of under similar restrictions. Thereafter, that is after a lapse of ten years, the Saul reserves may come into play. But it is never to be forgotten that if good Saul wood is to be available some years hence, *the cutting should commence now*, in order that there may be time for seasoning. The Teak Forests will not be of use till after the lapse of a lengthened period. It devolves on us now to repair the thoughtlessness and extravagance of the past generation, and to preserve Forests of which the coming generation may reap the benefit. Such, then, are our timber resources: and it will have been seen, from the foregoing Chapter on Railways, that there is great apprehension that these resources will not suffice for the permanent supply of sleepers to our Railways.

CHAPTER XV.—Conclusion.

Services of Officers connected with the Administration of the Central Provinces.

385. It remains for me to bring to the notice of the Supreme Government the names of those Officers who have rendered good service in the Administration of these Provinces during the year 1862-63.

386. Mr. John Strachey, the Judicial Commissioner, joined his important appointment in December 1862. He has devoted himself, with well directed ability and with the best effect, to the establishment of Law and System; to the regulation of all the Courts; to the guidance of the new Police; to the instruction of all Civil Officers in their duties; and to the dispensing of substantial justice. I crave permission to declare my sense of the assistance he has rendered to the Administration, and the valuable counsel which he has afforded me on all occasions.

387. Captain H. Mackenzie has given the greatest satisfaction in the performance of his Secretariat duties. He has been of special use in regulating Establishments, and in enforcing rules and method among the several executive Departments. He was also, for five months, deputed to inspect the Settlement operations in some twelve Districts. During that inspection he systematized the proceedings, introduced economy, and gave an impulse to the whole work. I have received great and constant assistance, in all respects, from Mr. Harry Rivett-Carnac, the Assistant Secretary, an Officer of ability and promise. He has accompanied me in the various Circuits.

388. The preceding Chapters of this Report will have shewn that the Commissioners of Divisions, Lieutenant Colonel J. K. Spence, Mr. J. S. Campbell, Lieutenant Colonel R. T. Snow, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Balmain have discharged their Judicial and Official duties in a prompt and effective manner. Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Spence held the office of Judicial Commissioner from May to December 1862. His judicial work has been very onerous, and has been performed with unremitting attention. Mr. J. S. Campbell has exercised a vigorous and able supervision over his Districts. Captain G. F. S. Browne acted as Commissioner of the Jubbulpore Division from January to June, and as Commissioner of the Nagpore Division from June to December. At Nagpore he disposed of a mass of arrears in a most creditable manner.

389. The Deputy Commissioners of the various Districts, on whom the efficiency of the Administration so much depends, have, as a body, done decidedly well. The simultaneous introduction of so many Rules, so many urgent measures, has unavoidably pressed hard upon them; but they have borne the pressure with cheerfulness and zeal. There are, among them, some who deserve especial notice,—Captain W. Nembhard, Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, has, during the year, assessed the Land Tax for nearly the whole of his District; though relieved of the current work of the District, he has still maintained an effective supervision over it; he has advanced local improvements and promoted Education; of all the Deputy Commissioners in these Provinces, he has done the best service within the year. Major J. B. Dennys, Deputy Commissioner of Ruepore, received charge of a District where system had been relaxed, and work had fallen into arrears; he has succeeded in effecting a marked change in the conduct of business; he has vigorously commenced the Settlement, and has undertaken the construction of many Civil Buildings. Major H. B. Impey, Deputy Commissioner of Sumbulpore, having contributed largely to the pacification of that District, has made an equitable Settlement conducive to general contentment, and displayed judgment in managing the Gurjat Chiefs. Major J. H. Maclean, Deputy Commissioner of Dumoh, has assessed the Land Tax in a large portion of his District; he has proved himself a more than ordinarily good Magistrate, and has done much to promote Education. Captain W. B. Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Seonee, has assessed the Land Tax in a large portion of his District; has visited remote and hilly tracts, making important suggestions for their improvement; has made roads in difficult places, and has projected valuable schemes for artificial irrigation. Captain J. Ashburner, Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore, has distinguished himself by material improvements effected in the City and Station of Nagpore; by the prompt disposal of business in a peculiarly

onerous District,—by his supervision over the Honorary Magistrates, and by the introduction of the Mahratta language into the Courts of Justice. Captain C. L. R. Glasford continues to manage the Godavery District with judgment and intelligence. He rendered me much assistance and information during my tour on the Godavery River. His excellent Report on the Bustar country received the commendation of the Supreme Government.

390. The following Deputy Commissioners have also discharged their multifarious duties in an efficient and satisfactory manner:—

Major W. H. Crichton, C. B.,	Deputy Commissioner,	Chanda.
Mr. J. H. Muster,	ditto	Bhundarra.
Captain C. Baldwin,	ditto	Baitool.
Captain A. B. Cumberlege,	ditto	Chindwarra.
Captain F. A. Fenton,	ditto	Hoshungabad.

391. Of the Assistant Commissioners, the following have rendered great aid in their respective Districts:—

Captain C. V. Gordon.
Lieutenant G. A. A. Warner.
Captain H. F. Newmarch.
Lieutenant C. H. Plowden.
Mr. F. Macnaghten.
Lieutenant C. H. Grace.
Captain J. J. Fulton.
Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
Mr. H. J. MacGeorge.
Captain J. Loch.
Lieutenant F. D. Faber.
Mr. J. Beddy.

Of the above, Captain C. B. Gordon, Captain H. F. Newmarch, Lieutenant C. H. Plowden, Mr. J. W. Chisholm, and Mr. H. J. MacGeorge have officiated as Deputy Commissioners during the whole or a portion of the year.

392. Lieutenant Ricketts, Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jubbulpore, is a very promising Officer, and is now in charge of that District.

393. Majors R. Ouseley and F. L. Magniac, and Captain E. M. Playfair, Cantonment Joint Magistrates of Saugor, Jubbulpore, and Kamptee respectively, have given satisfaction in their important charges. Major F. L. Magniac has recently been appointed Judge of the Small Cause Court at Nagpore, where his proceedings already give promise of success.

394. Of the Settlement Officers, I have to mention favorably Mr. A. B. Ross of Nagpore, who has, within the last season, assessed the Land Tax in the greater part of his District; Mr. W. Ramsay of Baitool; Mr. C. Elliott of Hoshungabad; Mr. H. Read of Saugor; Lieutenant J. Ducat, Assistant Settlement Officer at Hoshungabad,

Mr. A. M. Russell at Jubbulpore; Mr. G. W. Cline at Chindwarra, and Mr. Sterndale at Seonee.

395. Mr. C. Bernard, though joining the Settlement of the Wurdah District at a late period of the season, has yet made great progress, and evinced marked vigour and ability. He also officiated as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner for several months with entire efficiency.

396. Among the Extra Assistant Commissioners, the services of the following Officers merit acknowledgment:—

Mr. H. E. Wrottesley,
Mr. W. Munton,
Mr. T. L. Crawley,
Mr. D. A. Cameron,
Agn Mahomud Shoostree,
Moonshee Sheo Pershad,
Koonj Beharee Lal;

and among the Deputy Collectors in the Settlement Department—

Ashfaq Hossein,
Oulad Hossein,
Sooklal Sing,
Abdool Ruheem;

and among the Superintendents—

Joykishen.

397. Of the Tehseeldars or Sub-Collectors, the following have rendered specially good service in the year:—

Kishen Rao Rajeshur of Nagpore.
Inayut Hoosein of Hoshungabad.
Mirza Abid Alli of Raepore.

398. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent Chief Commissioner's Office, deserves notice for his knowledge and carefulness, and also Mr. J. Baily, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office.

399. Before concluding this notice of the Officers engaged in the Civil Administration, it is just to state that the Uncovenanted Civil Service is very well represented in these Provinces. The preceding paragraph will have shewn how many of these gentlemen have acquired credit. Such Officers as Messrs. A. B. Ross, H. Read, J. Beddy, J. W. Chisholm, and many others already mentioned, are equal to high Civil duty, and would sustain the credit of any Administration.

400. Dr. R. T. Abbott, the Inspector of Prisons, has but lately joined his appointment. But he has already evinced zeal and energy, and has visited nearly all the widely scattered Jails in these Provinces.

401. I am able to report very favorably of the Police Officers generally. The Inspector General, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Taylor, has uniformly evinced zeal and

judgment. In effecting the greatest amount of reduction consistently with safety and efficiency; in distributing a comparatively weak Police over a vast area and a varied range of duties; in training all members of his Force, from the Officer to the Private, his management has been most commendable. The Deputy Inspector General, Major G. G. Moxon, continues to prove himself a zealous and experienced Officer. Among the District Superintendents the greatest praise is due to Captain W. J. Morris, Lieutenant E. R. H. Twyford, and Lieutenant H. Fraser; these three Officers have done much to establish the reputation of the new system in all respects.

402. The following District Superintendents of Police have also shewn themselves to be good Officers:—

Captain F. A. Dickens.
Captain W. F. Ireland.
Lieutenant T. A. Scott.
Captain E. B. Clay.
Mr. J. C. Duff.
Lieutenant T. E. Vandergucht.
Mr. J. M. Berrill.

Lieutenant H. A. Hammond and Lieutenant Vertue have been efficient as Assistants. Among the Inspectors Mr. M. P. Hemken, Mr. J. Macmarquis, Mr. A. Wrixon, and Mr. S. Ballard have evinced promise of future usefulness. The Superintendent of the Municipal Police at Nagpore, Mahomud Boodun (who was trained in the Bombay Police), has given the greatest satisfaction to the Civil Authorities and to the Native Community; and his conduct justifies the most marked commendation.

403. Lastly, it is right to recollect the great service rendered to these Provinces by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Bruce, C. B., Inspector General of Police in India, in the original organization of the Police in these Provinces. This Administration is, indeed, under great obligation to that able Officer.

404. In the Educational Department, the newly appointed Director of Public Instruction, Captain P. Dods, has applied himself with tact and skill to founding a good system of Education amongst a peculiarly ignorant population. Of his Circle, Inspector M. C. Browning has proved himself eminently fitted, by zeal and qualifications for the important post he holds; Lieutenant G. H. Trevor is a young Officer of good attainments and high character; and Mr. Ram Chundra Demanath (from Bombay) is a Native gentleman of practical ability and experience. Among the District Inspector and other Officials the following should be noticed:—

Poorshotum Rao Narain, Head Clerk, Director Public Instruction's Office and Curator of Government Books.

Pundit Beharee Lall,
Moulvie Sufdar Ally,
Moonshee Roshun Lall,
Pundit Ramdyall,
Sreekrishna Sastree,
Venkut Rao Narain,
District Inspectors.

405. The work of the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General has, so far as this Administration is concerned, been efficiently carried on during the year by Mr. J. Eede and Mr. W. Bide; every assistance and information has been rendered by both these Officers.

406. In the Public Works Department, the Officers who have held the post of Chief Engineer during the year, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Maxwell and Lieutenant-Colonel A. Impey have done their utmost to enforce regularity, system and economy; to have the Designs and Estimates prepared in a due professional manner; and to cause the work to be executed well and quickly. In the Secretariat Department they have rendered me the most cordial assistance. Captain F. Cobbe, Assistant to Chief Engineer, has conducted the affairs of a difficult office in a highly satisfactory manner, and has proved himself an excellent Secretary. Captain A. Cadell has recently been appointed Superintendent of all the works in the Northern Circle. He is known to be an energetic and able Officer. Of the Executive Officers in these Provinces, Mr. J. H. Heyman continues to be the foremost in practical knowledge, in administrative aptitude, and in professional ability generally it would be difficult to find a better man for the duties required in Provinces like these, he has made great progress in the Jubbulpore and Nagpore Road. Next after him ranks Mr. J. W. O'Donnell, an Officer of long experience and great executive aptitude. Captain B. Prior has made fair progress with the Trunk Road from Kamptee towards Jubbulpore. Captain W. D. Chapman has shewn marked ability in the alignment of roads through difficult country, and proves himself to be an effective Executive Engineer in a large Military Cantonment. Lieutenant H. G. Puckle displayed zeal and aptitude, despite of harassing sickness, in framing of Road Estimates in a wild and unhealthy country. Mr. J. W. Henry, Assistant Executive Officer, has shewn professional skill in the construction of the Kunhan Bridge. Mr. A. Wilson, Assistant Executive Engineer, has done good service on the Jubbulpore Road. The services of Mr. J. Whiting (Supervisor) in the construction of the Wyn Ganga Bridge have been conspicuous, there is not a more excellent or meritorious Officer of his class to be found in the Central Provinces. Mr. A. R. Moseley also is entitled to credit for the architectural skill with which he renovated the ruined Mahratta buildings near Nagpore. Two young Civil Engineers, Messrs. H. Bell and F. L. O'Callaghan, recently joined, have already evinced promise of future usefulness. Mr. J. W. L. Ramm also has recently joined his post as Superintendent of Irrigation in Nagpore; within a brief period he has made extensive enquiries, and has amassed information of great professional value.

407. In the Account Department of the Department of Public Works, Mr. A. G. Crommelin has rendered great service in reducing the accounts to order and in enforcing economy.

408. In the Forest Department, Captain G. F. Pearson has watched over the conservation of these important interests with care and devotion. Lieutenant J. Forsyth has assisted in all branches of Forest Management; and in company with Captain J. E. Burton (of Her Majesty's 61st Regiment) has explored the wooded country on our Eastern

Frontier. Lieutenant W. Douglas, of the same Department, has been usefully employed in the Rewah Forests.

409. In the Customs Department, Messrs. W. O. Bell and W. Melville, Collectors, and Mr. R. K. Bartie, Patrol, have rendered effective service.

410. In the Revenue Survey, Captain A. D. Vanrenen at Saugor, and Lieutenant J. Sconce at Nursingpore, have executed a large amount of work, and have given satisfaction to all the Authorities with whom they have come in contact.

411. Among the Civil Surgeons, Dr. W. W. Heude of Nagpore has distinguished himself in the establishment of Dispensaries, and has caused the Natives to appreciate his skill and benevolence. Drs. J. Wilson, W. R. Rice, and C. E. W. Bensley have managed their respective Dispensaries with entire success. Dr. J. Cameron of Sirouncha, is an Officer of scientific ability, and has rendered aid to the general administration of that District. Drs. W. Grylls, W. Roberts, H. King, T. O'Devaine, C. Trimnell, G. F. Trimnell, P. Cullen, J. Law, J. F. Barter, H. J. Beach, and N. Jackson have rendered good service. Apothecaries T. King, T. H. Carr, and W. Thomas have also done their work well.

In my last Report the name of Mr. G. Law was inadvertently omitted. That gentleman rendered good service in his medical capacity with the Nagpore Irregular Force during the period of disturbance, and received from Government the rank of Assistant Surgeon.

412. In paragraph 511 of the last Report, I specified briefly the matters to which attention was then being directed. It will now be proper to state, in recapitulation of the present Report, what has actually been done from May 1862 to the present time of writing August 1863,—following the order of the foregoing Chapters.

Recapitulation.

Chapter I.—Introductory.

I.—One new Division or Commissionership, and two additional Districts have been formed.

Chapter II.—Law and System.

II.—The Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure have been introduced throughout these Provinces.

III.—The Punjab Code of principles of Law has been enforced in the Courts.

IV.—The following Acts of the Legislature have been extended to the Central Provinces:—

Act XIV. of 1859.
" X. of 1862.
" XLII. of 1860, as amended by Act XII. of 1861.
" X. of 1859, as amended by Act XIV. of 1863.
" XV. of 1862.
" IX. of 1860.

Section 34 of Act V. of 1861.

V.—The following Acts have been proposed to be introduced :—

Act XI. of 1863.
" XIII. of 1859.
" XXVI. of 1850.
" XXI. of 1856.
" XIX. of 1862.

VI.—The attention of Judicial Officers has been drawn to the following Laws and Regulations which already apply to these Provinces :—

Regulation X. of 1793.
" XXVI. of 1793.
" L. of 1793.
" LV. of 1795.
" III. of 1796.
" VII. of 1796.
" VII. of 1799.
" I. of 1829.
Acts XXII. of 1854 and XL. of 1858.
Regulation XVII. of 1795.
" II. of 1797.
" VI. of 1810.
" III. of 1812.
" VIII. of 1814.
" XX. of 1817.
" VI. of 1825.
" VI. of 1819.
Act XIX. of 1843.
" I. of 1849 and VII. of 1854.
" XIV. of 1853 and II. of 1855.
" III. of 1857 and I. of 1860.
" XXXV. and XXXVI. of 1858.
" XXI. of 1857.

VII.—A Code comprising all requisite orders for the conduct of Land Revenue Settlements has been framed.

VIII.—Forty-one sets of Executive Rules have been framed and circulated for the regulation of the Judicial, Fiscal, Financial, Educational and General Branches of the Administration.

Chapter III.—Judicial Sections 1 and 2.

IX.—The Office of the Judicial Commissioner for these Provinces has been duly constituted.

X.—Two Small Cause Courts have been established, one at each of the two principal Cities.

XI.—All Judicial arrears previous to May 1862, whether Criminal or Civil, in all Courts, whether of Appellate or Original jurisdiction, have been cleared away.